



FINEST

WONDER WOMAN

DAWN BEFORE DARKNESS

GAIL SIMONE | GREG RUCKA | NICOLA SCOTT | AARON LOPRESTI

PRESENTING DC's FINEST STORIES!

Each DC Finest volume features key moments in the adventures of the greatest characters in comics. Written and drawn by classic creators, these are the stories that transformed the DC Universe forever! *DC Finest: Wonder Woman: Dawn Before Darkness* features these incredible issues and more!



	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	

THE MIGHTY AMAZON MUST CONFRONT THE SINS OF HER PAST.

Award-winning writer Gail Simone's critically lauded run on *Wonder Woman* concludes in this volume leading up to the series' monumental 600th issue.

Following the events of "Rise of the Olympian," Diana must fight for her life and her birthright after she is ousted from the Amazons by Achilles in "Warkiller." In "A Murder of Crows," five mysterious kids with supernatural abilities seem intent on planting seeds of mistrust against Wonder Woman. Who are they, and what is their endgame? And in "Wrath of the Silver Serpent," Diana must defend Earth from an alien invasion led by someone with close family ties.

DC Finest: Wonder Woman: Dawn Before Darkness collects *Wonder Woman* (vol. 3) #36-44 and #600, a crossover story arc in *Secret Six* #10-14, *Blackest Night: Wonder Woman* #1-3 by writer Greg Rucka, and a story from *DCU Halloween Special '09* #1.





FINEST

WONDER WOMAN

DAWN BEFORE DARKNESS

NICOLA SCOTT collection cover artist
WONDER WOMAN created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER. SUPERGIRL based on the characters created by JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER.
By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.

LIZ MARSHAM
SEAN RYAN
EDDIE BERGANZA
BRIAN CUNNINGHAM
Editors – Original Series

ADAM SCHLAGMAN
Associate Editor – Original Series

REZA LOKMAN
Editor – Collected Edition

DUSTIN KITCHENS
Director – Collected Editions

STEVE COOK
Design Director – Books

CURTIS KING JR.
Publication Design

JODI TONG
RYAN CHRISTY
ERIN VANOVER
Publication Production

MARIE JAVINS
VP – Editor-in-Chief

JIM LEE
President, Publisher & Chief Creative Officer

ANNE DePIES
Senior VP & General Manager

LARRY BERRY
VP – Brand Design & Creative Services

LAWRENCE GANEM
VP – Editorial Programming & Talent Strategy

DAN KNEIPP
VP – Strategic Initiatives & Business Affairs

JAY KOGAN
Senior VP – Legal

NICK J. NAPOLITANO
VP – Manufacturing, Operations & Collected Editions

MARK SHERMAN
VP – Digital Growth Strategy & Monetization

NANCY SPEARS
VP – Sales & Marketing

CARRIE WILLIAMS
Executive Director – Publicity & Communications

DC FINEST: WONDER WOMAN: DAWN BEFORE DARKNESS

Published by DC Comics. Compilation and all new material Copyright © 2026 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. Originally published in single magazine form in *Wonder Woman* (vol. 3) 36-44, 600; *Secret Six* (vol. 3) 10-14; *Blackest Night: Wonder Woman* 1-3; *DCU Halloween Special* '09 1. Copyright © 2009, 2010 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters, their distinctive likenesses, and related elements featured in this publication are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents featured in this publication are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

DC Comics, 4000 Warner Blvd., Bldg. 700, 2nd Floor, Burbank, CA 91522

Printed by Solisco Printers, Scott, QC, Canada. 3/27/26. First Printing.

ISBN: 978-1-79950-811-3

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.



DC
FINEST

TABLE OF CONTENTS

5

"HAUNTED OR HOAX?"

DCU Halloween Special '09 #1, December 2009

11

"DEPTHS, PART ONE: THE MEASURE OF A PEOPLE"

Secret Six (vol. 3) #10, August 2009

Cover by Dan LuVisi

35

"DEPTHS, PART TWO: AMAZONS UNLEASHED"

Secret Six (vol. 3) #11, September 2009

Cover by Dan LuVisi

59

"DEPTHS, PART THREE: INFERNO"

Secret Six (vol. 3) #12, October 2009

Cover by Dan LuVisi

83

"DEPTHS, PART FOUR: FIT FOR A KING"

Secret Six (vol. 3) #13, November 2009

Cover by Dan LuVisi

107

"DEPTHS, PART FIVE: EARLY RELEASE"

Secret Six (vol. 3) #14, December 2009

Cover by Dan LuVisi

131

"WARKILLER, PART ONE: HEART OF FIRE"

Wonder Woman (vol. 3) #36, November 2009

Cover by Aaron Lopresti and Hi-Fi

155

"WARKILLER, PART TWO: OF TWO MINDS"

Wonder Woman (vol. 3) #37, December 2009

Cover by Aaron Lopresti and Hi-Fi

179

"WARKILLER, PART THREE: AFTER THE FIRE"

Wonder Woman (vol. 3) #38, January 2010

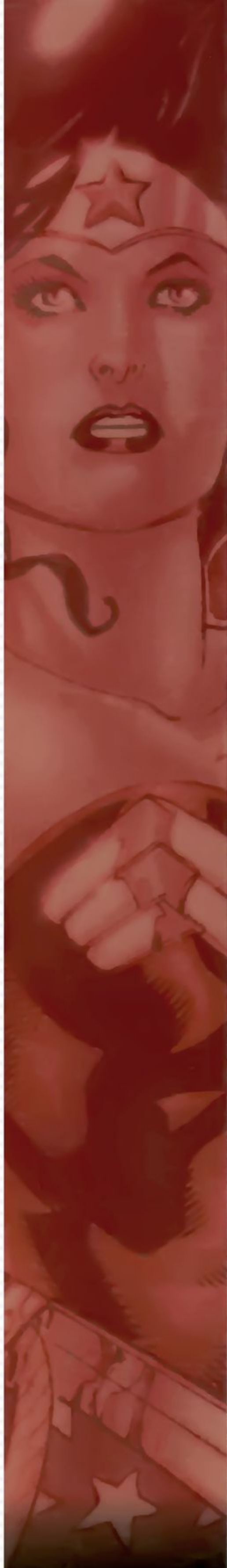
Cover by Aaron Lopresti and Hi-Fi

203

"WARKILLER, PART FOUR: DAWN BEFORE DARKNESS"

Wonder Woman (vol. 3) #39, February 2010

Cover by Aaron Lopresti and Hi-Fi



**DC
FINEST**



227

**"BLACKEST NIGHT, PART ONE:
THE LIVING"**

Blackest Night: Wonder Woman #1, February 2010
Cover by Greg Horn

251

"BLACKEST NIGHT, PART TWO"

Blackest Night: Wonder Woman #2, March 2010
Cover by Greg Horn

275

"BLACKEST NIGHT, PART THREE"

Blackest Night: Wonder Woman #3, April 2010
Cover by Greg Horn

299

**"A MURDER OF CROWS, PART ONE:
HIT THE GROUND RUNNING"**

Wonder Woman (vol. 3) #40, March 2010
Cover by Aaron Lopresti and Hi-Fi

323

**"A MURDER OF CROWS, PART TWO:
THROWDOWN"**

Wonder Woman (vol. 3) #41, April 2010
Cover by Aaron Lopresti and Hi-Fi

347

**"WRATH OF THE SILVER SERPENT, PART ONE:
CONTAGION"**

Wonder Woman (vol. 3) #42, May 2010
Cover by Nicola Scott and Hi-Fi

371

**"WRATH OF THE SILVER SERPENT, PART TWO:
BLOOD RED AND BONE DEEP"**

Wonder Woman (vol. 3) #43, June 2010
Cover by Nicola Scott

395

**"WRATH OF THE SILVER SERPENT, PART THREE:
CUT FROM A POUND OF FLESH"**

Wonder Woman (vol. 3) #44, July 2010
Cover by Nicola Scott

419

"VALEDICTORIAN"

"FUZZY LOGIC"

"FIREPOWER"

"THE SENSATIONAL WONDER WOMAN"

Wonder Woman (vol. 3) #600, August 2010
Cover by George Pérez

DC
FINEST

Wonder Woman TM

HAUNTED OR HOAX?

Writer: MANDY McMURRAY pencils: SCOTT CLARK
inks: SCOTT CLARK and DAVID BEATY
color: ULISES ARREOLA letters: TRAVIS LANHAM
Wonder Woman created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

ALL RIGHT, WE'RE OUT IN THE WALNUT WOODS AREA SEARCHING FOR THE PROOF OF *THE FOREST LADY*. IT'S REALLY DARK OUT HERE, GUYS. MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE WAITED FOR DAYLIGHT.

INVESTIGATOR: ALLISON WHITNEY

WHAT ARE THOSE SUPPOSED TO BE?
THEY'RE ROCKS.
I CAN SEE THAT THEY'RE ROCKS, BUT WHY ARE THEY THERE?
THE FOREST LADY PUT THEM THERE. THEY'RE GRAVE MARKERS.
WHY?
LISTEN!

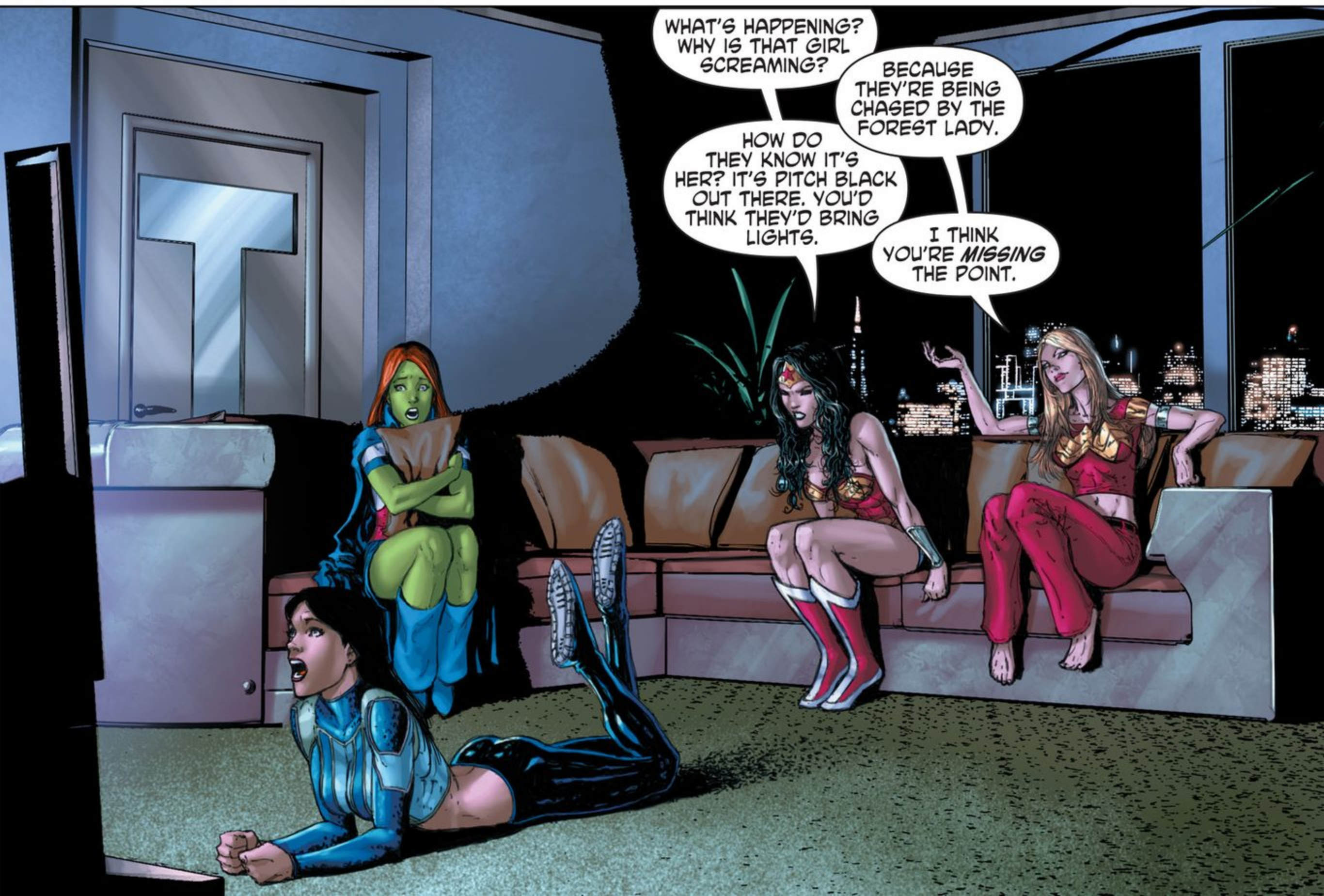


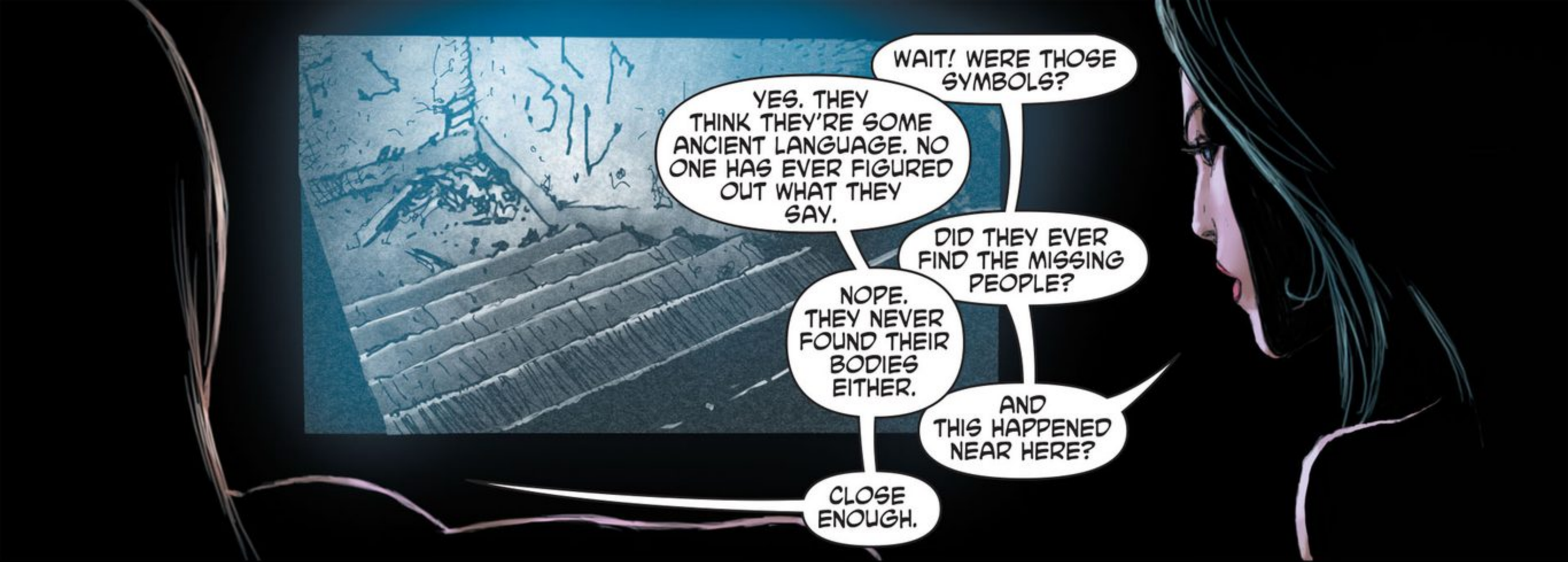
WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS ONE OF THE STRANGE MARKERS THAT LOCALS CLAIM IS LEFT BEHIND BY THE FOREST LADY EVERYTIME SOMEONE GOES MISSING.

NASTY!
WHAT'S NASTY? WHAT IS IT?
IT'S THE MISSING GUY'S FINGER!
HOW CAN YOU TELL?
BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE HIS FINGER IN THERE.
IT LOOKED LIKE A BIG GLOB OF RASPBERRY JAM.
THAT WAS BLOOD--AND IN THE MIDDLE WAS HIS FINGER.
IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A FINGER.
JUST WATCH THE SHOW.



WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY IS THAT GIRL SCREAMING?
BECAUSE THEY'RE BEING CHASED BY THE FOREST LADY.
HOW DO THEY KNOW IT'S HER? IT'S PITCH BLACK OUT THERE. YOU'D THINK THEY'D BRING LIGHTS.
I THINK YOU'RE *MISSING* THE POINT.





YES. THEY THINK THEY'RE SOME ANCIENT LANGUAGE. NO ONE HAS EVER FIGURED OUT WHAT THEY SAY.

WAIT! WERE THOSE SYMBOLS?

DID THEY EVER FIND THE MISSING PEOPLE?

NOPE. THEY NEVER FOUND THEIR BODIES EITHER.

AND THIS HAPPENED NEAR HERE?

CLOSE ENOUGH.



I DON'T LIKE THIS PROGRAM.

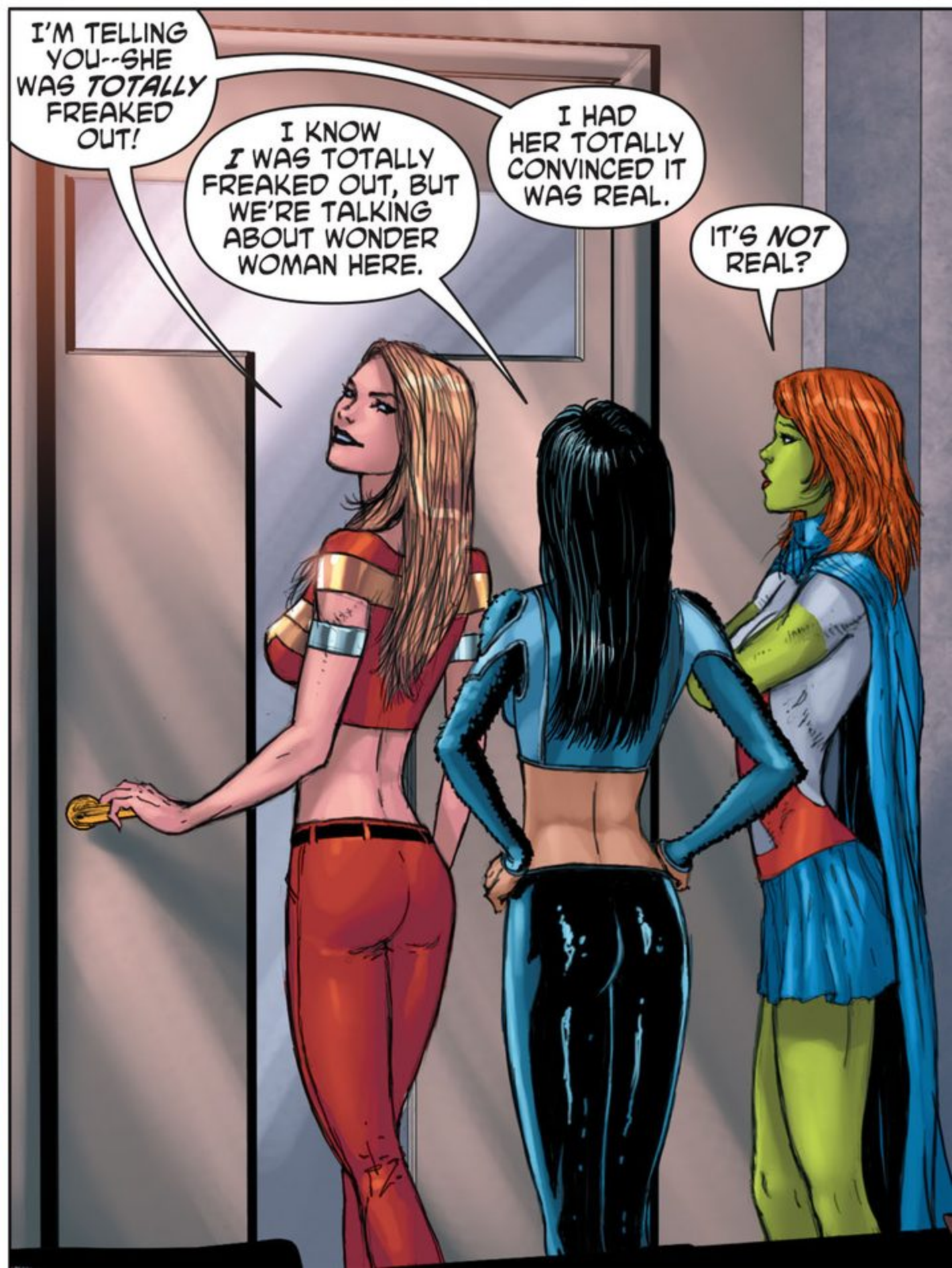
YOU'RE SCARED!



I AM NOT SCARED... I'M DISTURBED.

ALL RIGHT, BUT *AVOID* THE WOODS ON YOUR WAY HOME.

VERY FUNNY.



I'M TELLING YOU--SHE WAS **TOTALLY** FREAKED OUT!

I KNOW *I* WAS TOTALLY FREAKED OUT, BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WONDER WOMAN HERE.

I HAD HER TOTALLY CONVINCED IT WAS REAL.

IT'S **NOT** REAL?



9 IT'S JUST A FOREST.

YES, IT'S THE FOREST FROM THE SHOW...

BUT CASSIE WAS PROBABLY JUST TRYING TO SCARE YOU.

IF THOSE PEOPLE REALLY DISAPPEARED, YOU WOULD HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT, UNLESS--

--UNLESS YOU WERE ON THEMYSKIRA...

STOP IT! YOU ARE THE PRINCESS OF THEMYSKIRA, THE DAUGHTER OF HIPPOLYTA, WARRIOR QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS, AND A MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

YOU ARE ALSO TALKING TO YOURSELF.

YOU'VE FACED EVERYTHING FROM DEMONS AND ALIENS, TO SORCERERS AND DEMIGODS...

... AND SO HAVE THE GIRLS. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WONDER GIRL, AQUAGIRL AND MISS MARTIAN. SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEMBERS OF THE TEEN TITANS. THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

AAAAHH!!

OR MAYBE THERE IS.

THOSE
HAND
PRINTS
LOOK LIKE--



--BLOOD



GREAT HERA!
CASSIE.



CASSIE!



NOTHING.



AAHH!!



AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU DIDN'T OVERREACT?



SEE, THERE'S NOTHING IN THESE WOODS.

THOSE ARE CREEPY.

IT'S JUST BERRY JUICE.

I'M STILL NOT SURE I *LIKE* IT OUT HERE.

IT WAS JUST A SILLY TV SHOW, M'GANN. C'MON.



END



10
AUG '09

SECRET

DEPTHS PART I



GAIL
SIMONE
NICOLA
SCOTT
DOUG
HAZLEWOOD

dccomics.com



TWO MONTHS AGO...

HATE COMING DOWN HERE, MR. SMYTH. HATE THE DARK, HATE THE FILTH, HATE DEALING WITH THE PEOPLE...

NO. IT IS TOO MUCH TO CALL THEM PEOPLE.

I SAY THEY ARE CATTLE, FILTHY CATTLE WITHOUT AN OUNCE OF GOD'S GRACE.

DISGUSTING!

AND THE SMELL! I DON'T KNOW HOW THESE SWINE BEAR IT!

CATTLE.

EXCUSE ME?

A MOMENT AGO YOU SAID THEY WERE CATTLE. DO BE CONSISTENT, PLEASE, EMIL.

WHERE IS THIS WOMAN?

HERE, SIR. I'M TOLD HER NAME IS MINA.

PRETTY NAME.

ALL RIGHT, YOUNG LADY. YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION.

WHY ARE YOU REFUSING TO WORK?

SOPLADURAS.

IN ENGLISH, YOU IGNORANT COW. THIS IS MR. SMYTH YOU'RE TALKING TO!

GAS, JAILOR. MY FATHER WAS A MINER, AS WERE MY BROTHERS.

THERE IS METHANE GAS BEHIND THE CUTTING WALL.

WE COULD ALL BE KILLED WITH ONE STROKE OF THE PICK-AXE.





STOP THIS. THIS... THIS IS MONSTROUS!

IT WAS I WHO DISOBEYED! KILL ME!

THE FAT MAN IN GREEN. TAKE HIS HANDS, GIUANA.



NO, POR FAVOR! NO!

YOU CAN'T... YOU CAN'T DO THIS.

I... PLEASE. PLEASE. I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT.



THE TWO YOUNG LOVERS. THEIR FACES, PLEASE.



STOP IT STOP IT STOP IT!

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD! STOP IT!



I... I WILL WORK. MINA IS GOOD. PLEASE, PLEASE STOP.

SHE WILL WORK HARD.



AND THE GAS?
WHAT ABOUT THE
GAS, MINA?

...
MINA
WAS LYING.
THERE IS NO
GAS. NO
GAS!

MINA WILL,
I WILL WORK.
WORK SO
HARD.



THANK
YOU.

MINA SAY
THANK.

HANDSOME
MAN. GOOD
MAN.



FILTHY
SWINE.

IT NEVER
CEASES TO AMAZE
ME HOW YOU KNOW
EXACTLY HOW TO BREAK
THEM, MR. SMYTH. THIS
WOMAN... SHE'S QUITE
NEARLY PRE-LINGUAL, AS
THOUGH SHE'S NOT A
PERSON AT ALL ANY-
MORE.

AND IT TOOK
ONLY MOMENTS
AND COST
ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING.

ASTOUNDING!

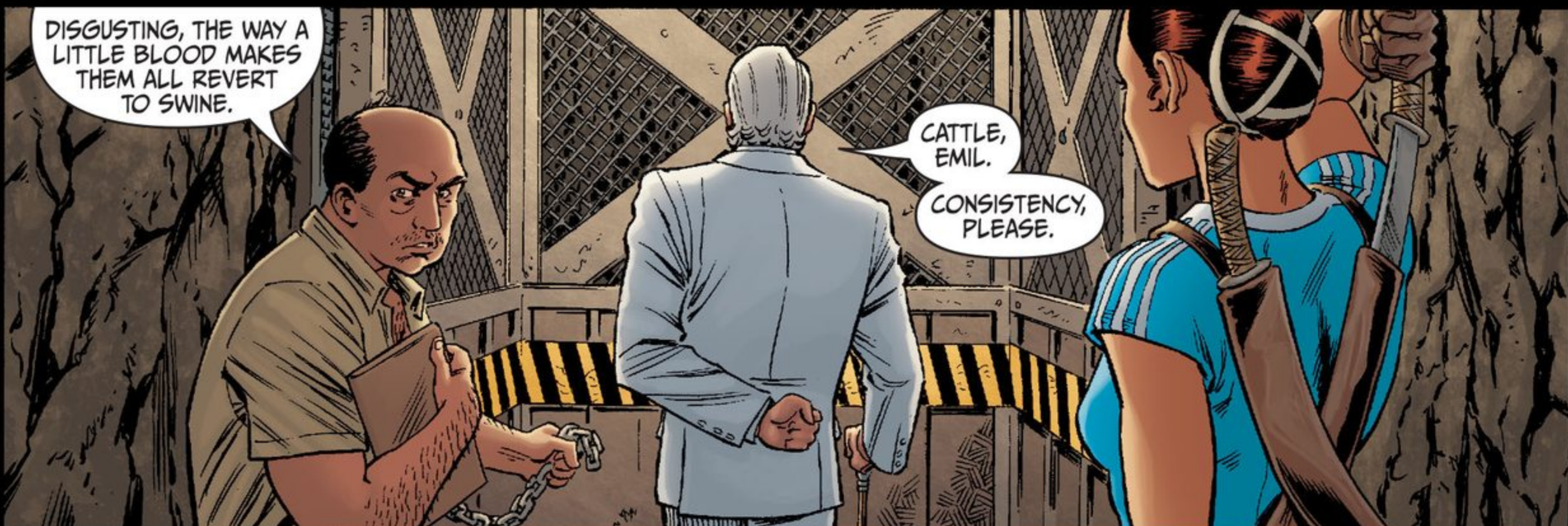


I HAVE TO SAY, THOUGH,
THAT TECHNIQUE WOULD
NEVER WORK WITH ME,
MR. SMYTH.

THERE WAS NO
"TECHNIQUE," EMIL.

PUT THE WOMAN ON GRAVE DETAIL.
MAKE HER BURY THE BODIES OF
THE ONES KILLED FOR HER
DISOBEDIENCE.

HANDSOME.
GOOD. KIND.



DISGUSTING, THE WAY A
LITTLE BLOOD MAKES
THEM ALL REVERT
TO SWINE.

CATTLE,
EMIL.

CONSISTENCY,
PLEASE.

ELSEWHERE...



C-3-7

FREE,
BANE!

YOU ARE
FREE!

DEPTHS

PART ONE

THE MEASURE OF A PEOPLE

GAIL SIMONE—WRITER NICOLA SCOTT—PENCILLER

DOUG HAZLEWOOD W/ MIKE SELLERS—INKERS

JASON WRIGHT—COLORIST SAL CIPRIANO—LETTERER

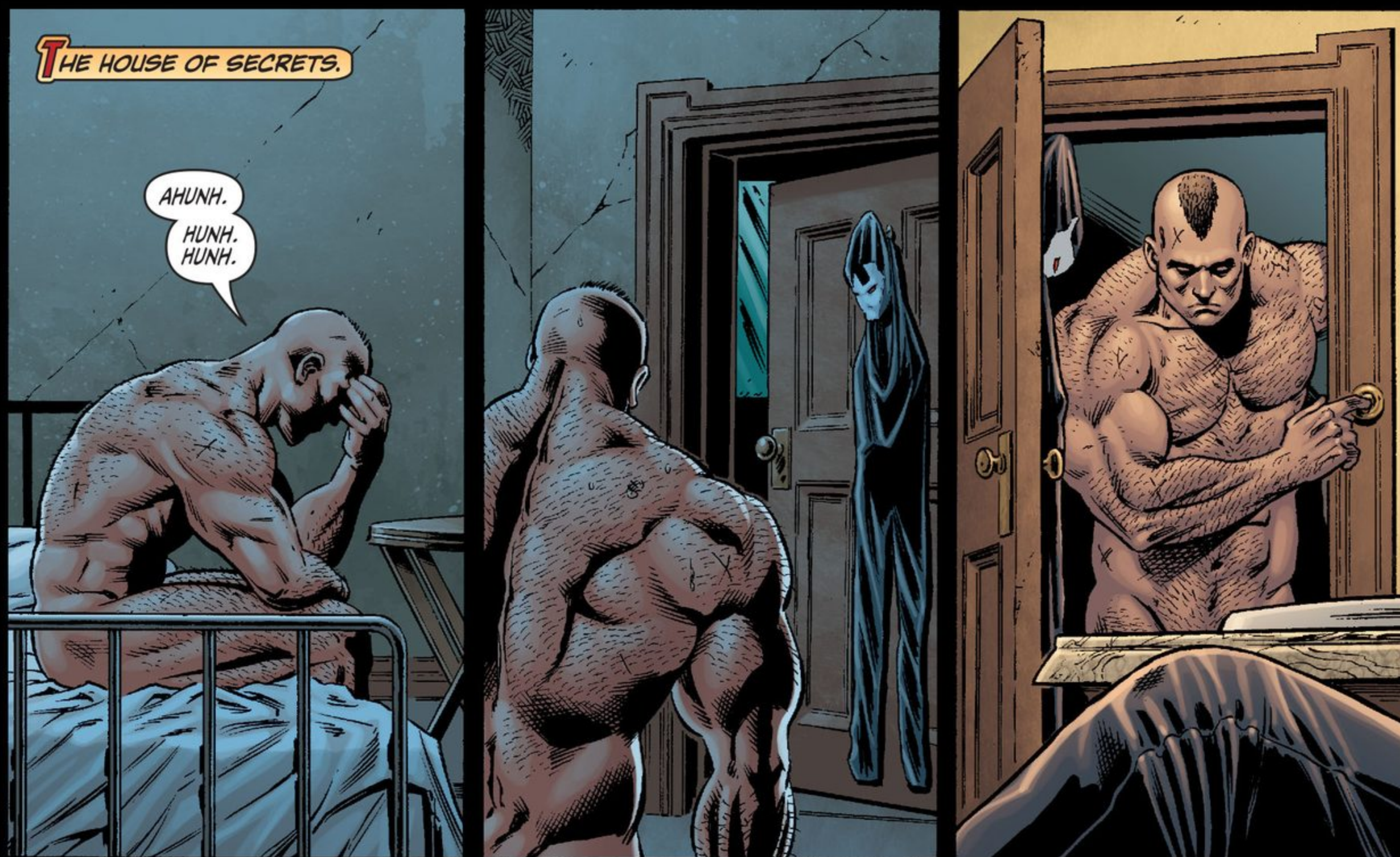
SEAN RYAN—EDITOR

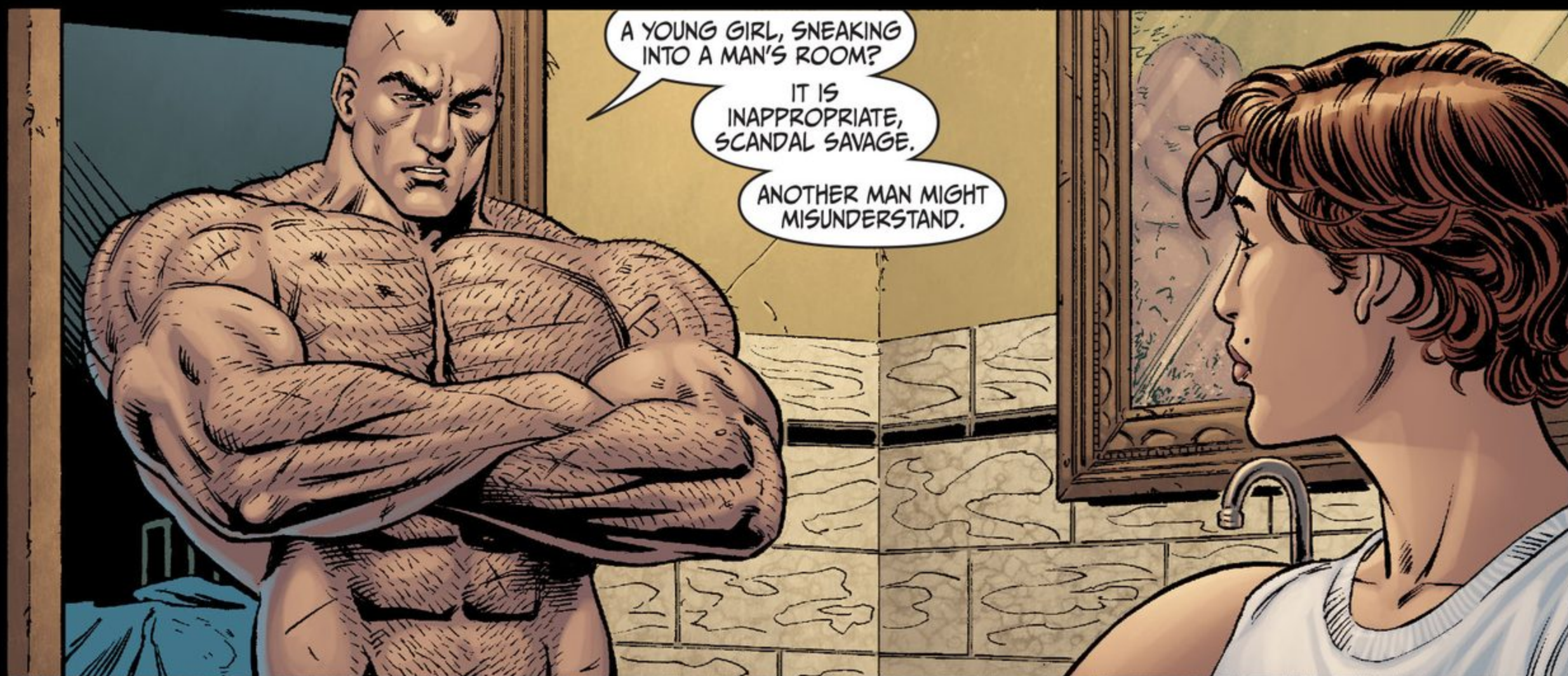
NO.

NO!



THE HOUSE OF SECRETS.





A YOUNG GIRL, SNEAKING INTO A MAN'S ROOM?

IT IS INAPPROPRIATE, SCANDAL SAVAGE.

ANOTHER MAN MIGHT MISUNDERSTAND.



AND YET, HERE WE ARE.

THE LOWLIES SAY YOU'VE BEEN SCREAMING IN THE NIGHT.



I DO NOT NORMALLY HAVE NIGHTMARES.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN THEM.

PERHAPS AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THE BAD DREAMS HAVE FOUND ME AND HAVE DECIDED TO PUNISH ME FOR MY PEACEFUL SLUMBER ALL THESE YEARS.



BANE...LISTEN, DO YOU HAVE A REAL NAME?

YES. IT IS BANE.

SIGH

ALL RIGHT. I UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE ADDICTION. MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

MORE THAN YOU KNOW.



WHEN I WAS SUFFERING, YOU CARED FOR ME.

AND I KNOW YOU TOOK THE VENOM TO SAVE MY LIFE.

IF IT'S WHAT YOU WANT, I WILL LEAVE THESE AMPOULES ON THE DRESSER AND LEAVE.

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.

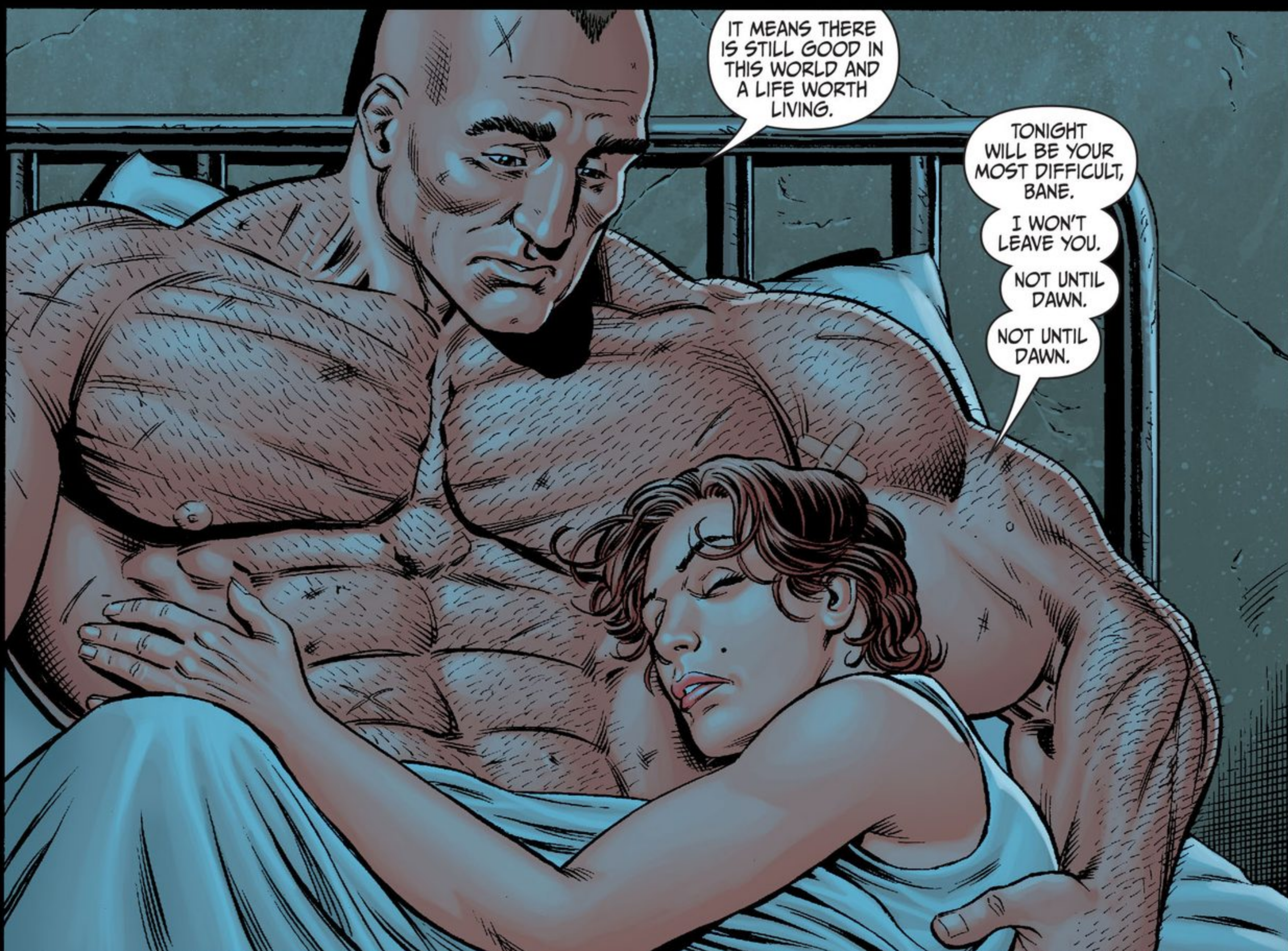


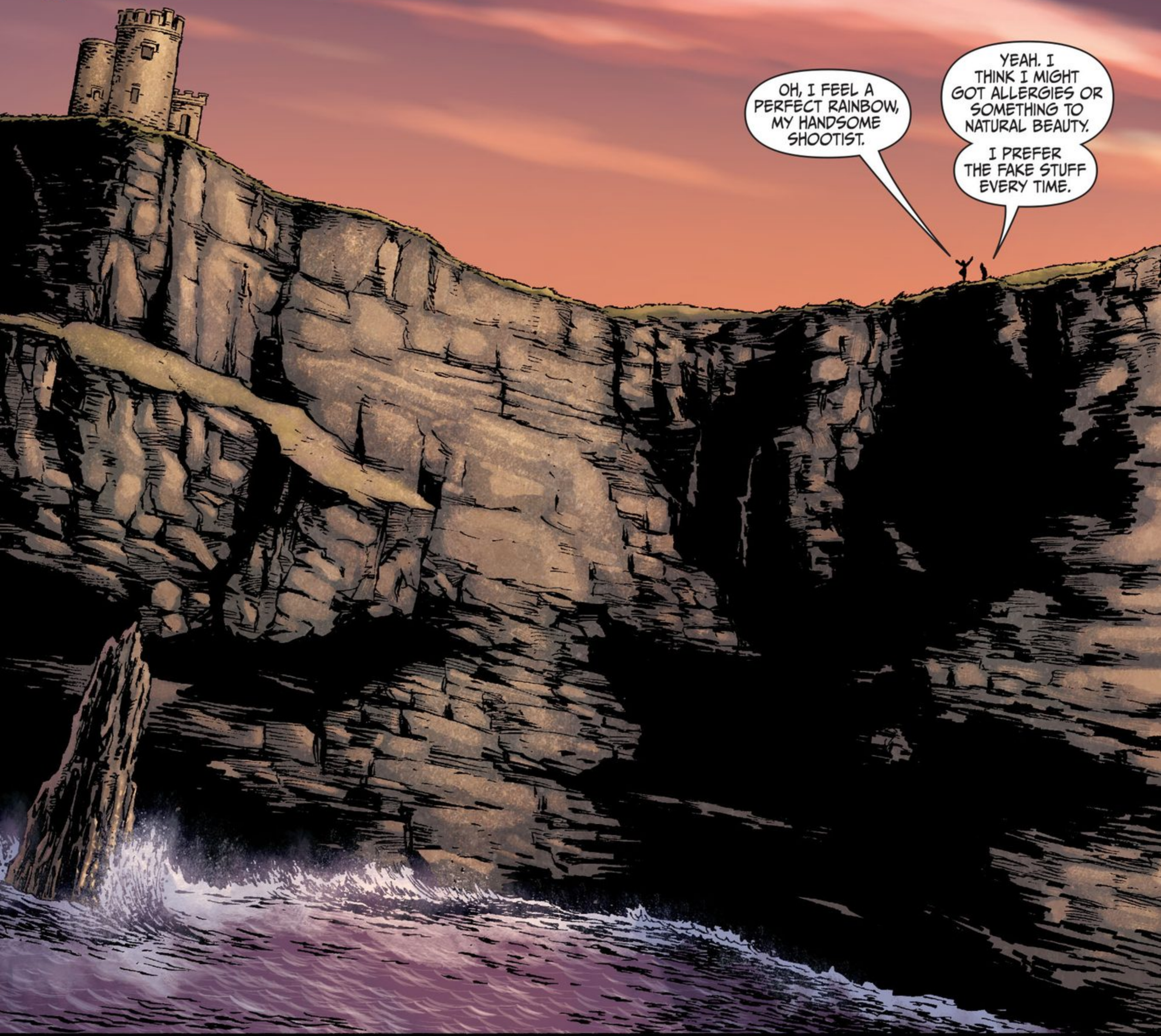
...

NO. DESTROY THEM.

YOU...

YOU ARE CORRECT. I MUST BE FREE OF IT.





OH, I FEEL A PERFECT RAINBOW, MY HANDSOME SHOOTIST.

YEAH. I THINK I MIGHT GOT ALLERGIES OR SOMETHING TO NATURAL BEAUTY.

I PREFER THE FAKE STUFF EVERY TIME.

DO YOU KNOW IT'S OVER 700 FEET TO THE OCEAN AT THIS SPOT?



DISTANCES, THEM I GET.

WHY ARE WE MEETIN' OUR CLIENTS HERE, INSTEAD OF IN THE CITY?

AN' HOW COME YOU AIN'T WEARIN' UNDER-WEAR?



OH, I THINK YOU'D LIKE LIMERICK. THE LOCALS CALL IT "STAB CITY."

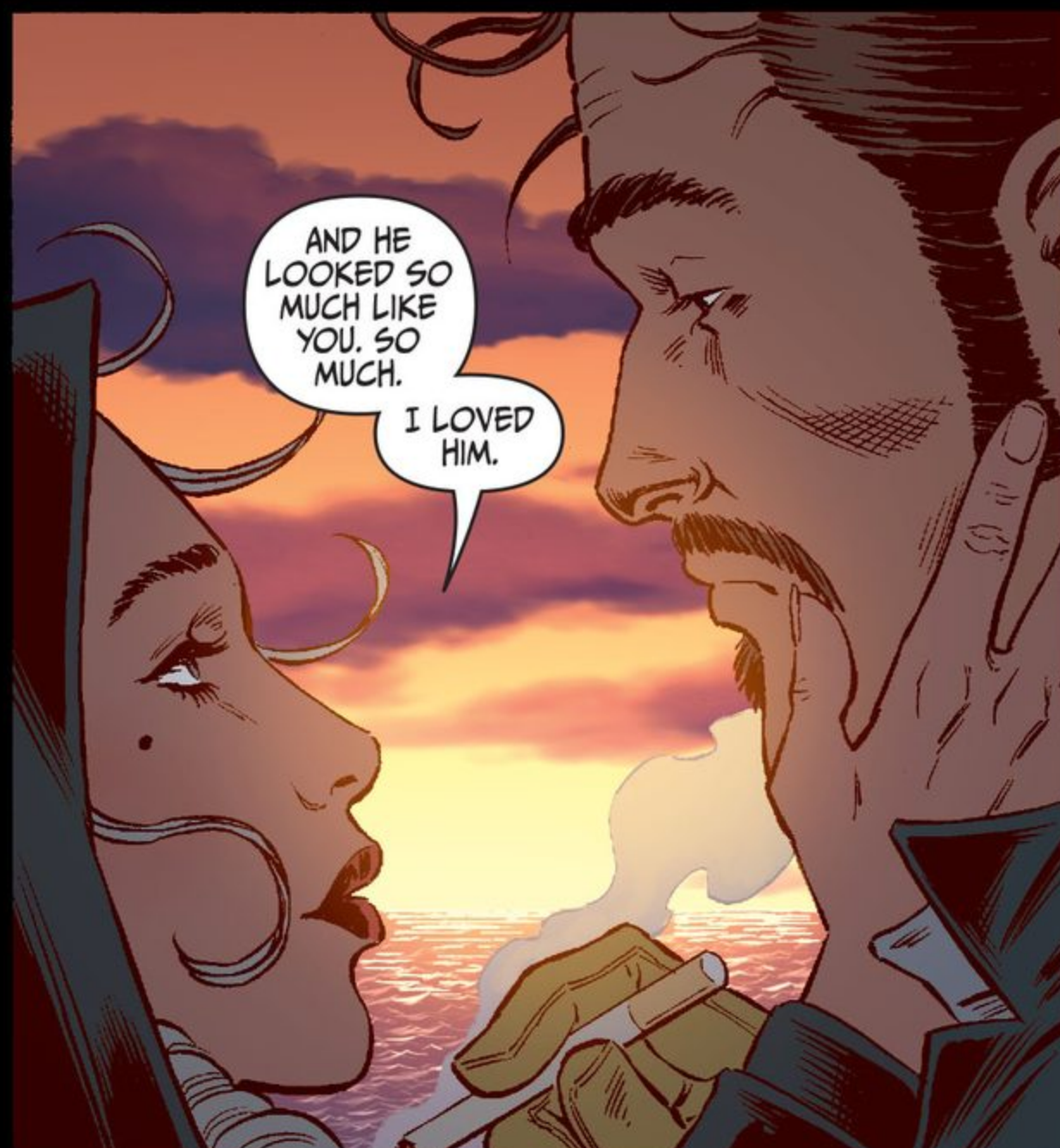


THAT DON'T SOUND SO BAD. LET'S GO THERE NOW.

I HAVE A HISTORY HERE, DEAR. IN THIS SPOT.

WHAT KINDA HISTORY?









RRKK.

FORGIVE ME, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE KNOW.

WE HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN THE PAST BY A LACK OF COMMITMENT.



BRAVE MEN OF STERLING REPUTATION HAVE FOUND SOME OF OUR METHODS UNPALATABLE. THEY LACKED CONVICTION.

BUT SOCIETY HAS SHOWN US NO OTHER OPTION THAN OUR BLUEPRINT. REGRETTABLE, BUT TRUE.



THE WORLD HANGS ON THE PRECIPICE, MR. LAWTON. JUST AS YOU DO.

AND SOCIETY'S GRIP...



...IS SLIPPING.



NOT FOR NOTHING, LITTLE MAN, BUT DID YOU HAVE ANY LAST WORDS BEFORE I THROW YOU TO THE ISLANDS?



AND WATCH YOUR FRIEND DIE? YOUR VERY CLOSE FRIEND, BY ALL APPEARANCES?

THIS IS THE SECRET OF OUR SUCCESS, MR. LAWTON. BEYOND EVEN THE PAY, IT'S WHY WE ATTRACT A...CERTAIN KIND OF EMPLOYEE. IT IS AN IMPOLITE TRUTH.

THE SAME TRUTH THAT HAS MADE VALUED GUARDS OUT OF SADISTS AND TORTURERS THROUGHOUT HISTORY. IT IS HOW ALL TRUE EMPIRES WERE BUILT, AND WHY THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER SUCH GRAND ACHIEVEMENT WITHOUT IT.



THERE IS NO JOY, NO PERSONAL SATISFACTION IN ALL THE WORLD LIKE OWNING A HUMAN BEING.



ONCE YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SIMPLE TRUTH, THE REALITY EVERYONE KNOWS IN THE HEART BUT DENIES IN CONVERSATION...

...THEN YOU WILL SEE THAT WORKING FOR US IS ABOUT SOMETHING BETTER THAN MONEY.

MAY I ASK WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, MR. LAWTON?



TRUTHFULLY?

I WAS WONDERIN' IF I COULD TALK BOTH THESE LADIES INTO A THREESOME.

BUT YOU GO AHEAD AND KEEP RUNNING YOUR MOUTH IF IT MAKES YOU HAPPY.



THEY'LL DO NICELY.

I WORK FOR SOMEONE YOU MIGHT BE FAMILIAR WITH, MR. LAWTON.

HE GOES BY THE NAME MOCKING-BIRD.



AND THAT BIT OF INFORMATION PUTS US PAST THE POINT OF NO RETURN. WE'LL NEED YOU AND THE REST OF YOUR TEAM TO BE ON THE PLANE WITHIN TWELVE HOURS.

DO I GOTTA LISTEN TO THE RUNT YAK THE WHOLE WAY?

QUITE LIKELY.

"AND YOU'LL BE ESCORTING THE FINAL
PIECE OF OUR CONSTRUCTION."

"WELCOME ABOARD,
MR. LAWTON."

YOU
SURE HE SAID
"MOCKINGBIRD",
LAWTON?

YEP. DIDN'T
MAKE NO SENSE
TO ME, EITHER.

IT STILL
CAN'T BE
LUTHOR,
RIGHT?

I DON'T
CARE **WHO**
HIRED US...**THAT**
BOX SMELLS LIKE
A SACK OF WET
FLATULANCE.

DON'T
SPEAK OF IT
THAT WAY.

IT IS
SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL.

WE ARE RECREATING GOD'S
WILL HERE, AND THIS IS THE
BEAST THAT WILL REMOVE
ALL DOUBT.

IT WILL
TERRIFY AND
INSPIRE.

IT WILL
CONSUME THE
DISBELIEVERS.

IT IS VERY
ANCIENT, MY
FRIENDS. VERY
PRECIOUS AND
TERRIBLE!

THERE'S DEATH ALL
OVER IT. OVER
ALL OF US.

YOU MUST
GUARD IT
WITH YOUR
LIVES!

LAWTON WAS
RIGHT, EMIL. YOU
ARE A CHATTY
CATHY.

WE'LL
EARN YOUR
MONEY.

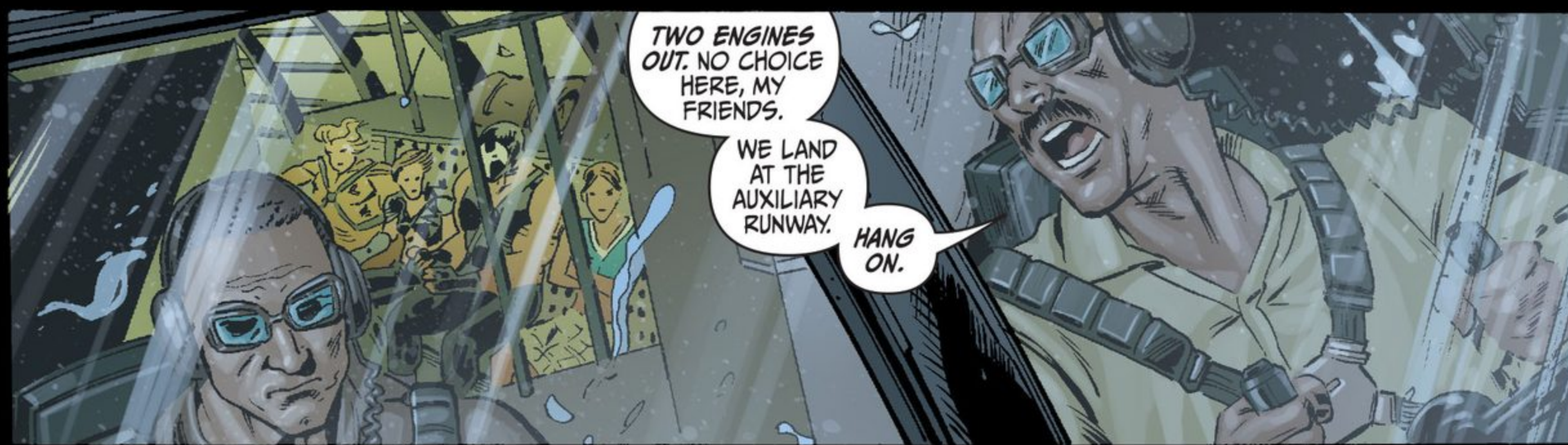
BOOOOOM

WHAT WAS
THAT, PRAY
TELL?

ROCKET
FIRE, 'DOLL.
THE PLANE'S
BEEN HIT.

HA!

AT LEAST
IT MADE THE
MIDGET SHUT
UP FOR HALF A
SECOND!





OKAY, THE BAD NEWS IS WE'RE IN A BURNING PLANE, TWENTY KLICKS FROM BASE, AND WE'RE SURROUNDED BY WELL-ARMED, ANGRY REBELS.



BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS, WE'RE ALI...



...VE.

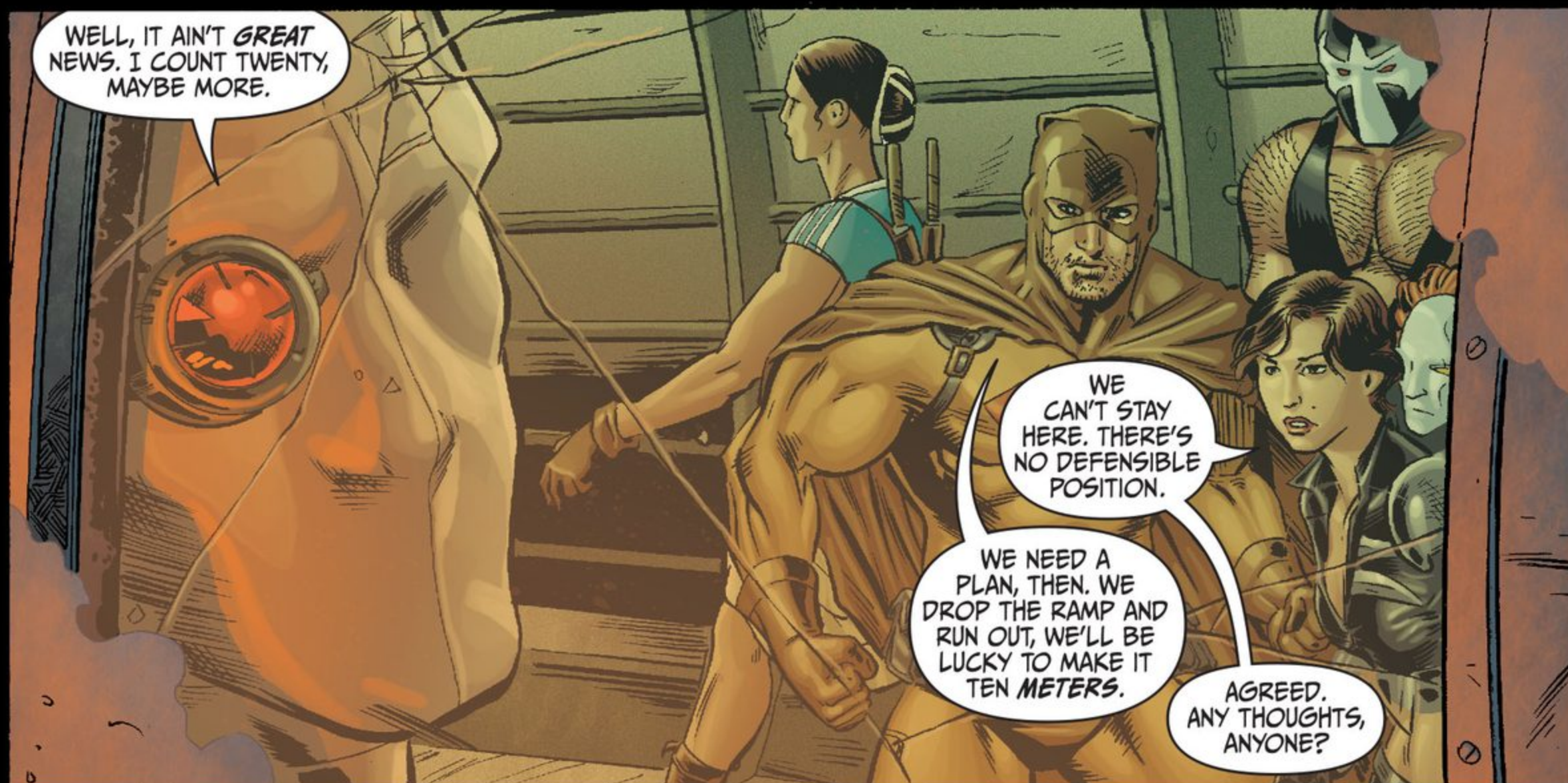
UHK.



WE CAN'T LEAVE. WE MUST STAY AND DEFEND THE ARTIFACT!

YEAH, SMART THINKIN', THAT WAY WE CAN BE BAKED AND SHOT.

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND A WAY TO GET US ALL DIPPED IN EGG BATTER AND DEEP-FRIED, WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, THERE, ACE.



WELL, IT AIN'T GREAT NEWS. I COUNT TWENTY, MAYBE MORE.

WE CAN'T STAY HERE. THERE'S NO DEFENSIBLE POSITION.

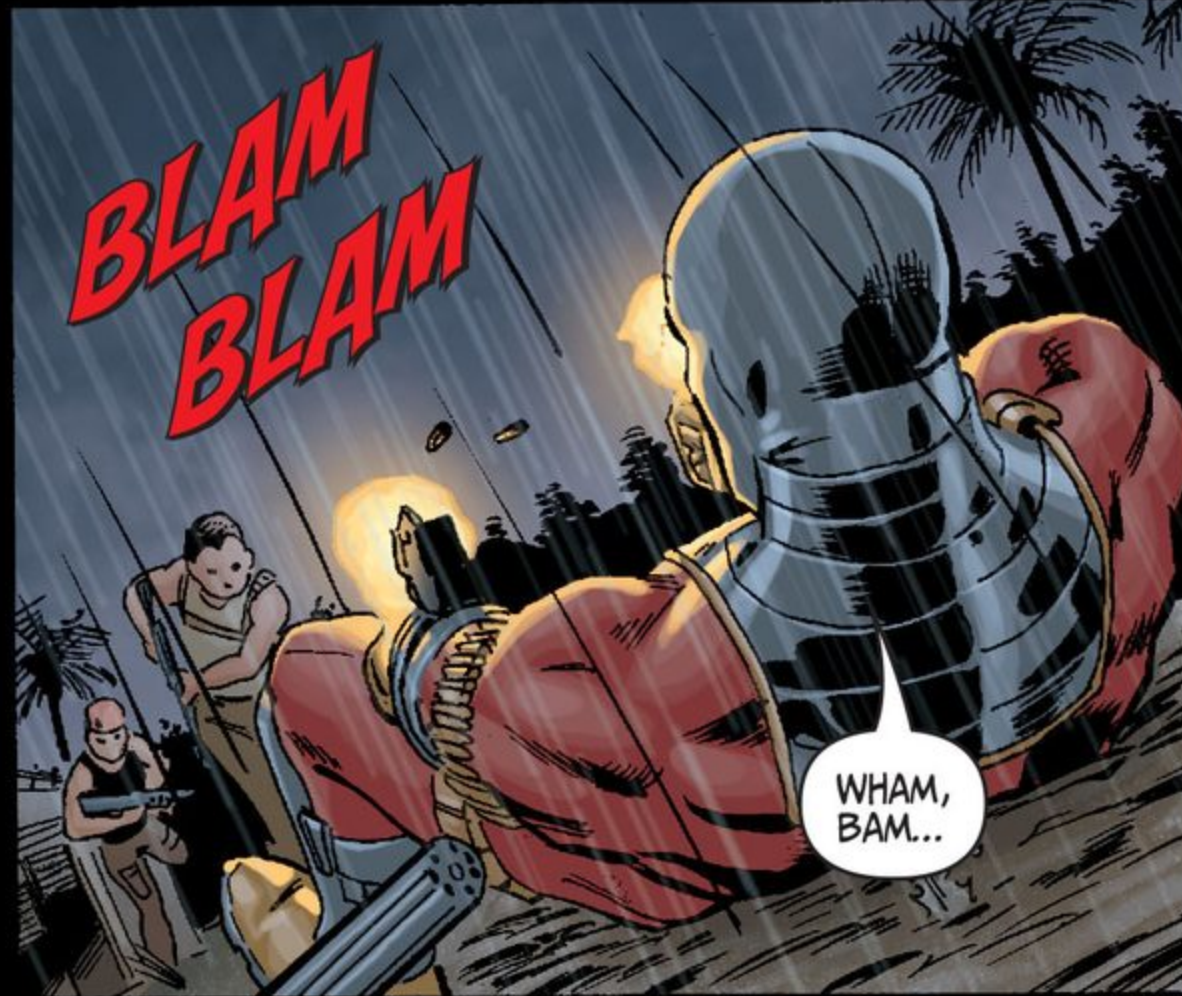
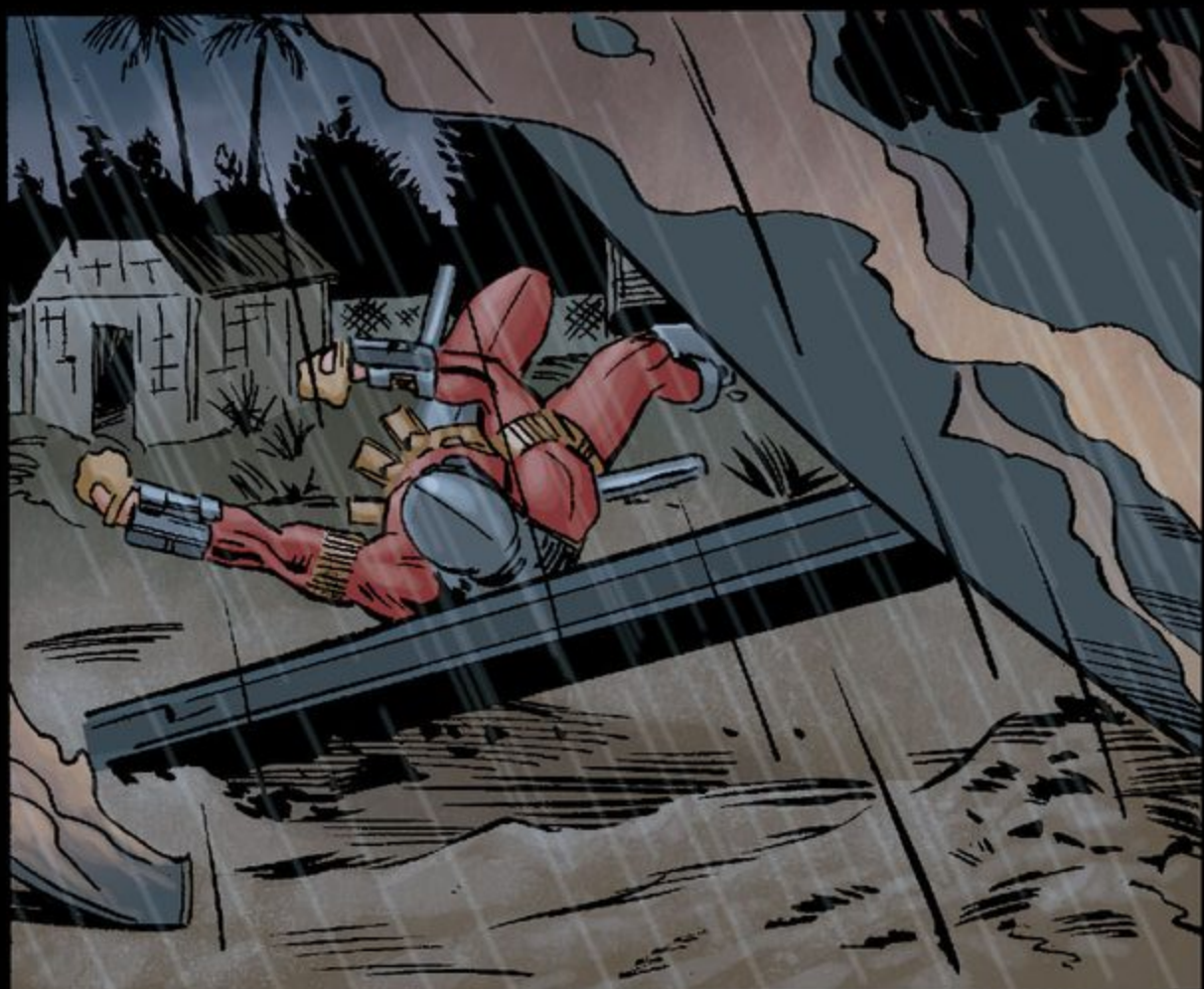
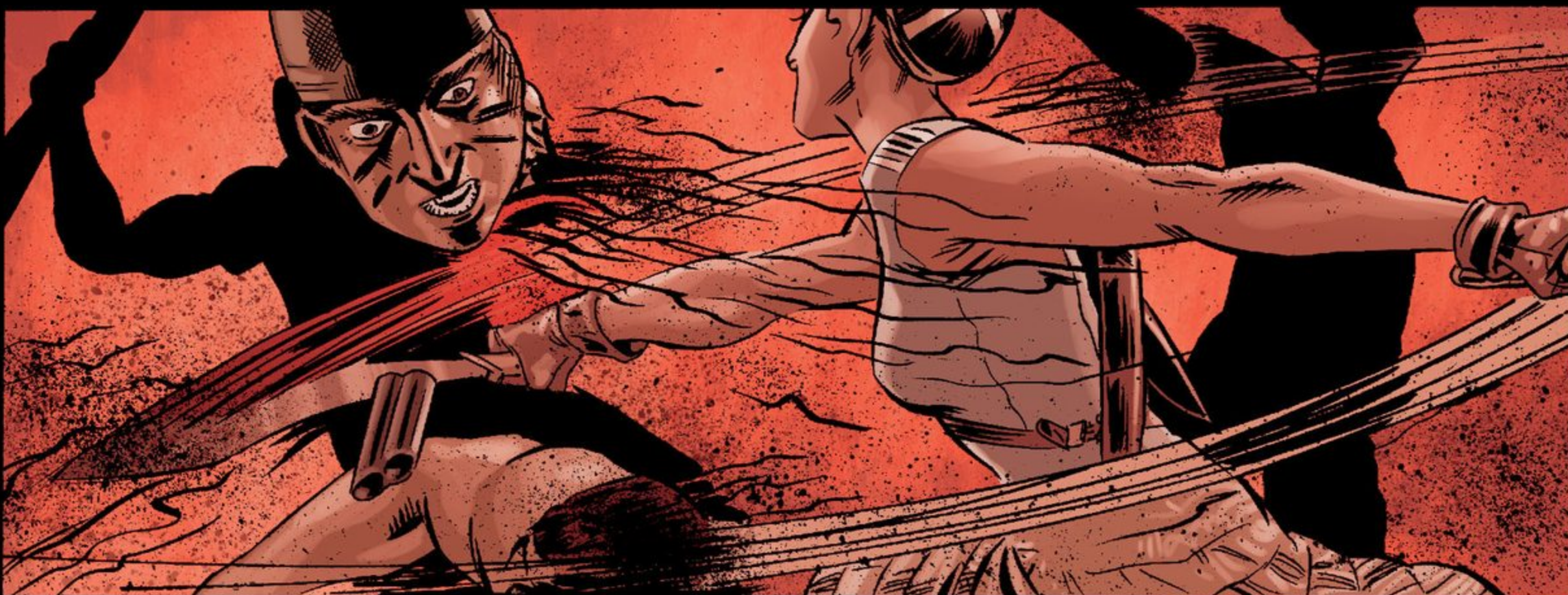
WE NEED A PLAN, THEN. WE DROP THE RAMP AND RUN OUT, WE'LL BE LUCKY TO MAKE IT TEN METERS.

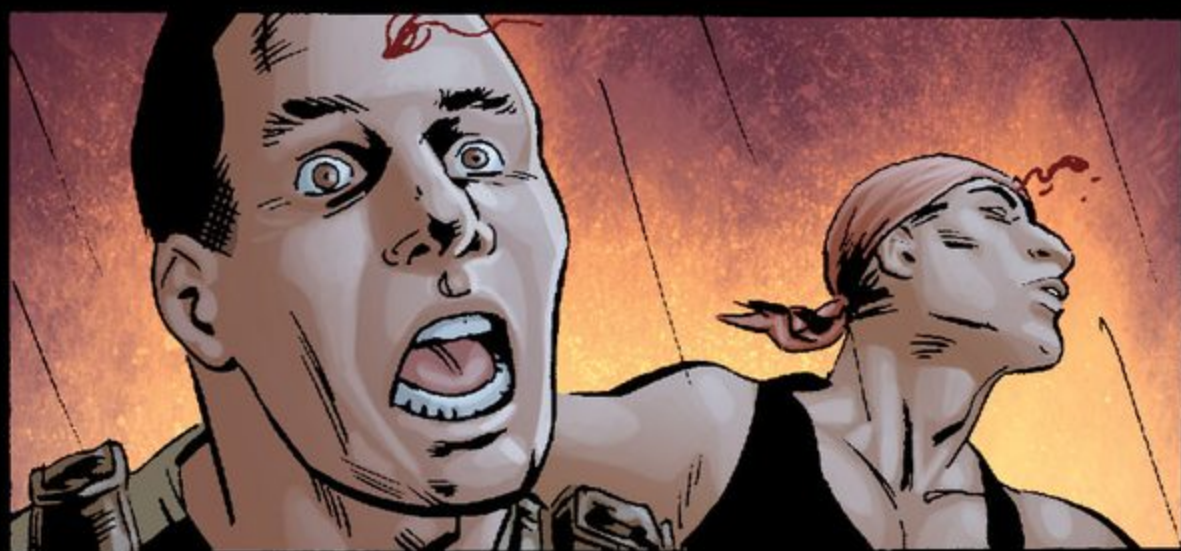
AGREED. ANY THOUGHTS, ANYONE?



RAMP
BOOM
CAUTION

KLAKK







UNN!



SCANDAL SAVAGE!



HOW DARE YOU.

HOW DARE YOU, YOU INSIGNIFICANT PUSTULE OF VOMIT AND BILE?

GLK



YOU MAGGOT-INFESTED TROUGH OF A DISEASED HOG'S DINNER!

UH. THAT GUY IS MOST DEFINITELY PASSED ON, BIG GUY.

DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU OR NOTHIN'.

REINFORCEMENTS. THE REBELS ARE RETREATING.



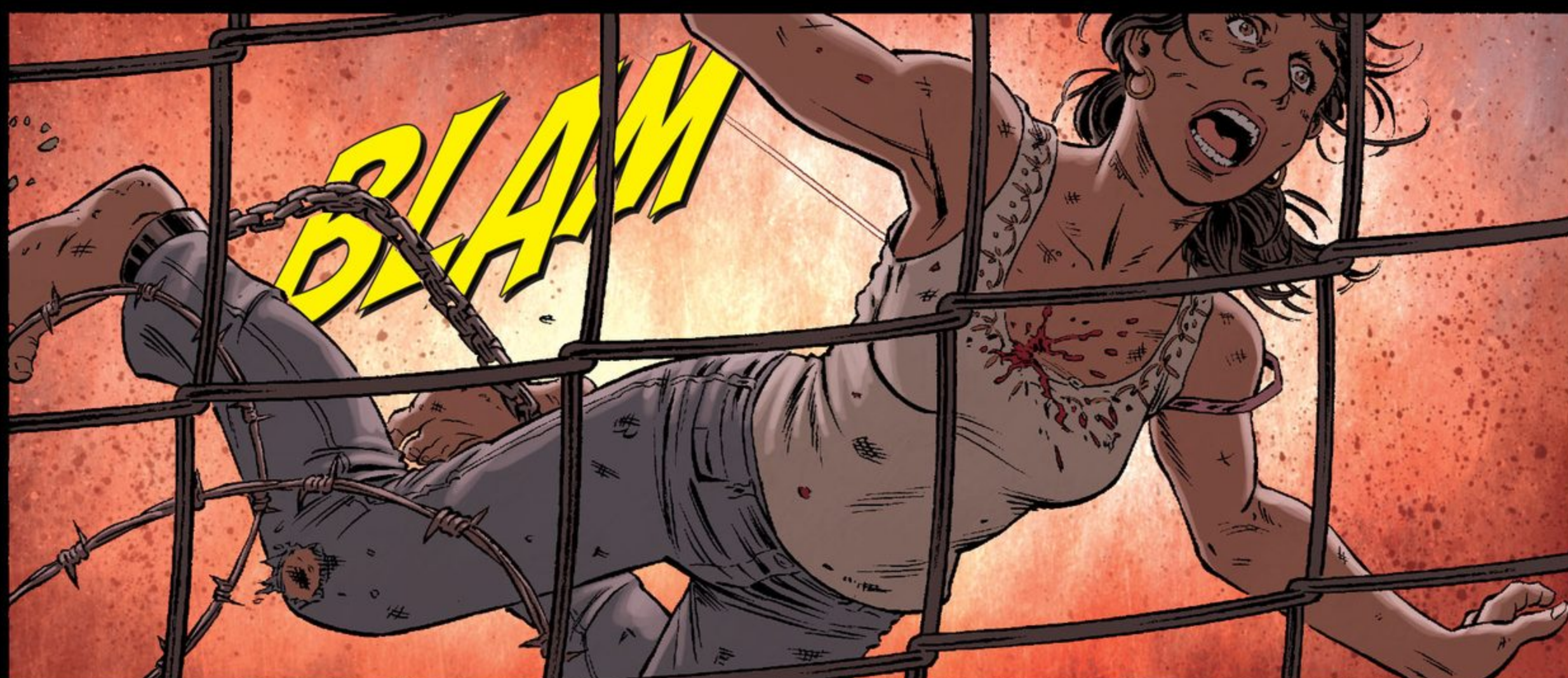
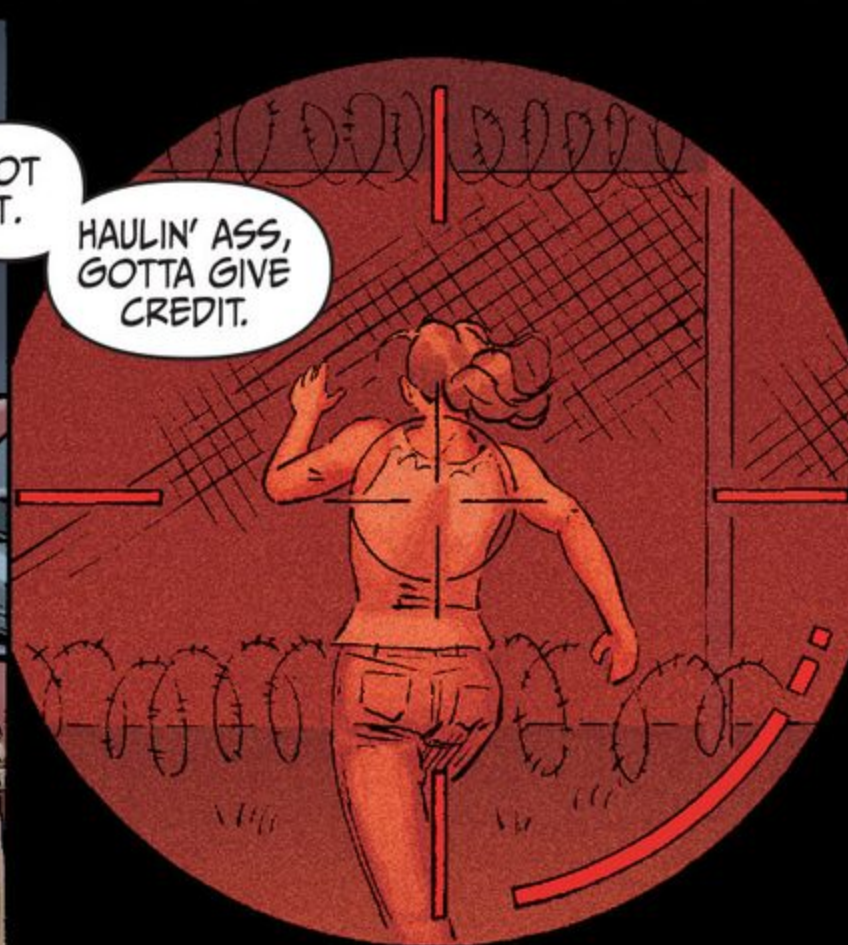
I SEE OUR NEW HIRES ARE ALREADY EARNING THEIR PAY.

LET'S TEST THEIR WILL, SHALL WE, ARTEMIS?



KL.
WILL KLL YOU.

I'M SURE YOU'D LIKE TO, IN ANY CASE.





SHE BREATHES NO MORE.

HEY, IF I WANTED HER TO SUFFER, I WOULD HAVE MADE THAT HAPPEN.

I DON'T GOT ANYTHING AGAINST HER OR ANYTHING.

JUST AN ESCAPED PRISONER.



HER HANDS HAVE BEEN COMMITTING HARD LABOR, AND ONLY RECENTLY.

OUR HOSTS AREN'T MERELY WARDENS, DEADSHOT.



THEY'RE SLAVERS.

AS ALL GREAT LEADERS IN HISTORY HAVE BEEN, MISS. I TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO YOUR FRIEND...



SHE RAN, I SHOT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT FROM ME.

MURDERING SLAVES? HAVE YOU NO SCRUPLES AT ALL, MERCENARY?

IT DOESN'T MATTER. HE DID THE RIGHT THING WHEN CALLED UPON. YOU ALL FOUGHT AND DEFENDED OUR ASSETS. MORE IMPORTANT, EVEN IN THE FIELD AND UNDER FIRE...

...YOU PASSED THE REAL PSYCHE EVALUATION.



WELCOME TO DEVIL'S ISLAND, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

WHERE YOU TRULY BELONG.

NEXT:
AMAZONS UNLEASHED



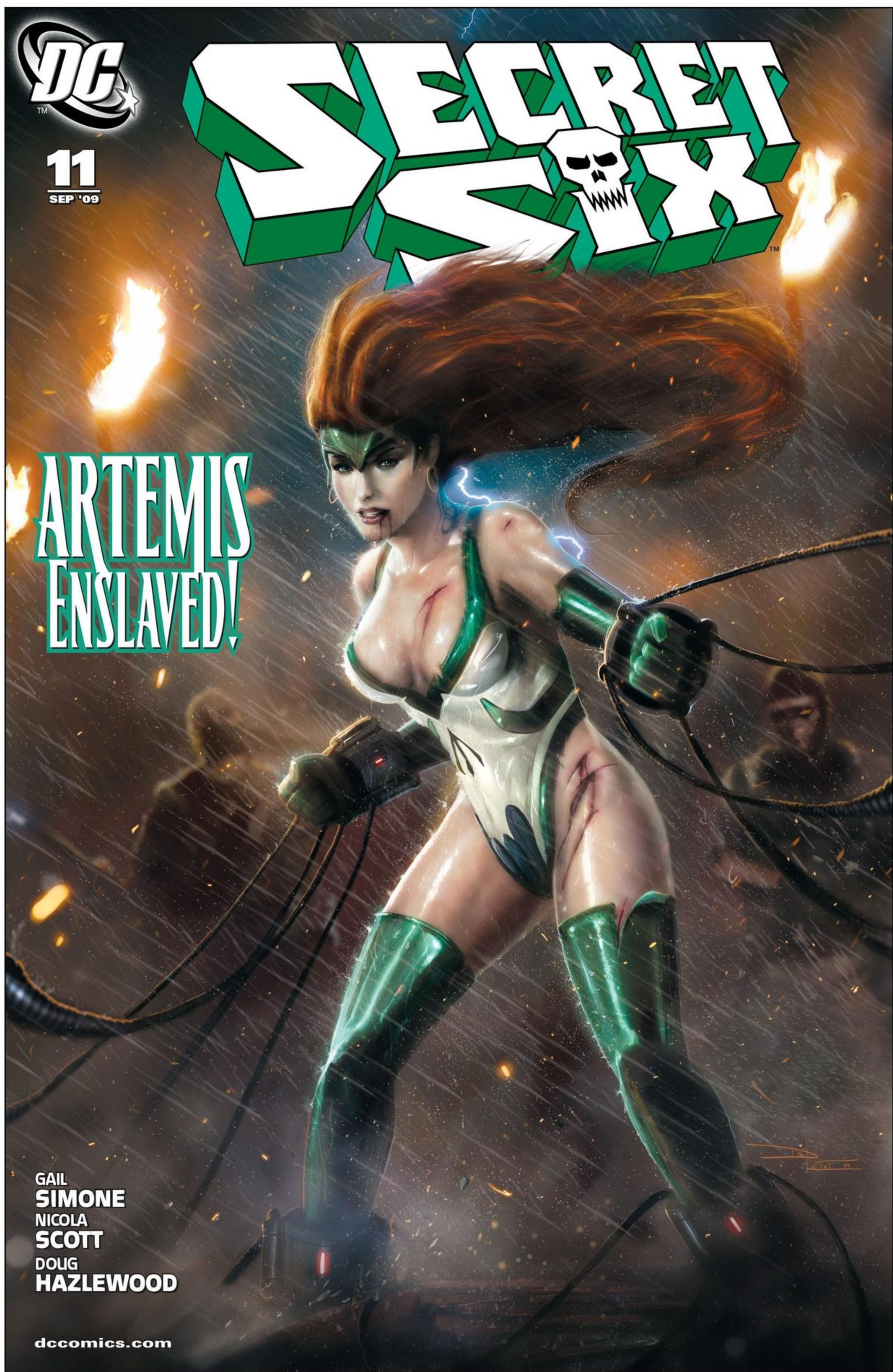
11
SEP '09

SECRET

ARTEMIS ENSLAVED!

GAIL
SIMONE
NICOLA
SCOTT
DOUG
HAZLEWOOD

dccomics.com









I GUESS
IT MIGHT COULD
GO THAT WAY.

DEPTHS

PART TWO
AMAZONS UNLEASHED

GAIL SIMONE • WRITER NICOLA SCOTT • PENCILLER
DOUG HAZELWOOD & MARK MCKENNA • INKERS JASON WRIGHT • COLORIST
TRAVIS LANHAM • LETTERER DANIEL LUVISI • COVER ARTIST SEAN RYAN • EDITOR



THE FIRST
PHALANX OF
GUNMEN. I'LL
TAKE THE BIG
WOMAN.

THAT
DOES
SEEM TO FIT
YOUR HISTORY,
DARLING.



DO YOU
WANT TO DIE
FOR THIS?

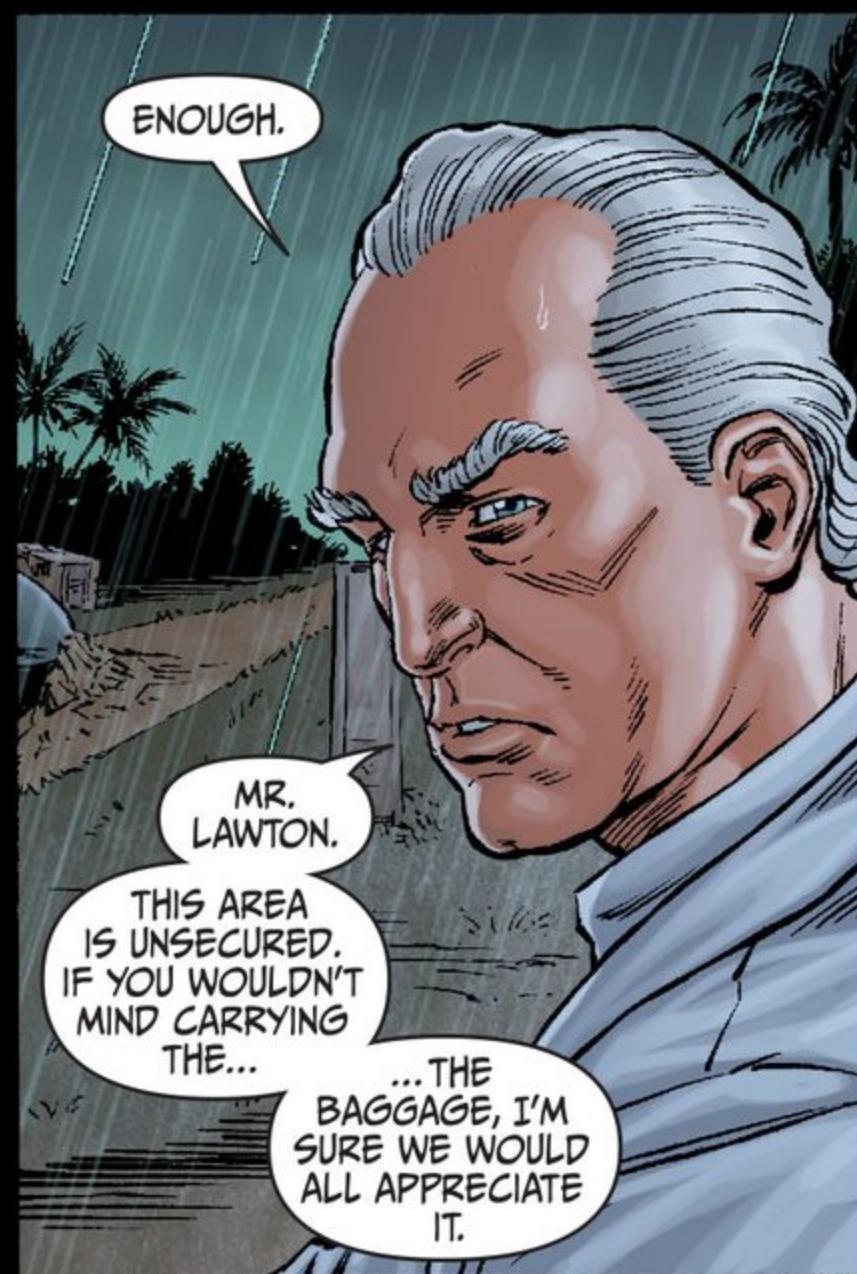
YOU'LL BE
IN THE BACK
OF THE JEEP
WITH HER, YOU
IMBECILE!

MISTER, I'M
ONLY GOING TO
SAY THIS ONE
LITTLE TIME.



COULD YOU
STAND MAYBE
TWO INCHES TO
THE LEFT?

FAT RUNTS
LIKE YOU MAKE
SWELL HUMAN
SHIELDS, IN CASE
YOU DIDN'T
KNOW.



ENOUGH.

MR.
LAWTON.

THIS AREA
IS UNSECURED.
IF YOU WOULDN'T
MIND CARRYING
THE...

...THE
BAGGAGE, I'M
SURE WE WOULD
ALL APPRECIATE
IT.



S'ALL I
ASKED.

SHE'S STUCK.
SCANDAL, WOULD
YOU MIND--

NO.
OF
COURSE NOT,
LAWTON.



SEEMS
LIKE A LOT
OF DAMN
FUSS OVER
NOTHING.



I TAKE IT YOU HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO MY OWN MEN DISPOSING OF THE OTHER BODIES FROM TONIGHT'S MISFORTUNES?

KNOCK YOURSELF OUT, WHITEY.

PEOPLE ARE SAD AND I DON'T KNOW WHY.

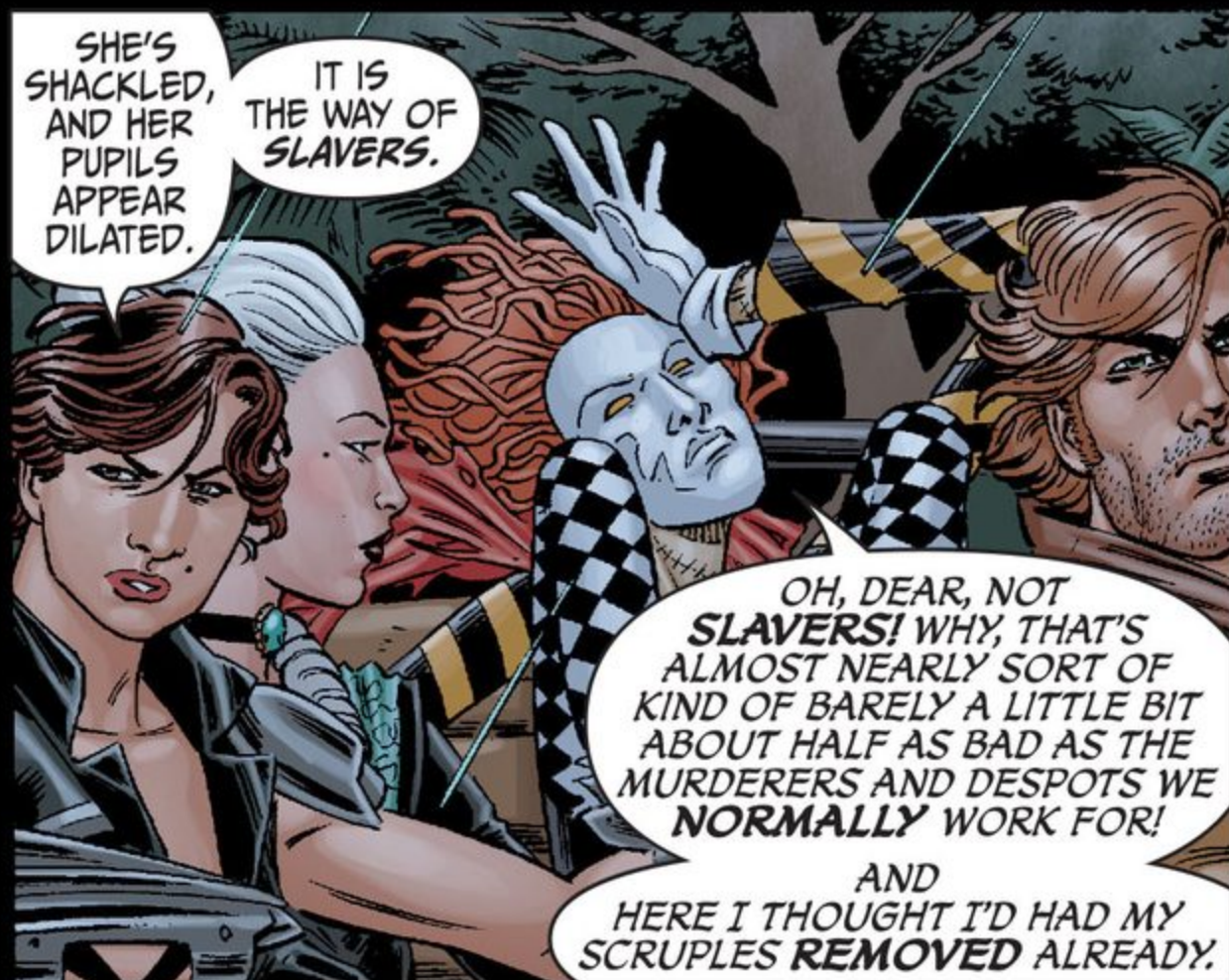


EITHER OF YOU KNOW THE REDHEAD SITTING WITH OUR NEW EMPLOYER?

IT CAN'T BE WHO SHE LOOKS LIKE.

I WOULD HOPE NOT.

I CAN'T STAND AMAZONS, TO BE HONEST.



SHE'S SHACKLED, AND HER PUPILS APPEAR DILATED.

IT IS THE WAY OF SLAVERS.

OH, DEAR, NOT SLAVERS! WHY, THAT'S ALMOST NEARLY SORT OF KIND OF BARELY A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HALF AS BAD AS THE MURDERERS AND DESPOTS WE NORMALLY WORK FOR!

AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D HAD MY SCRUPLES REMOVED ALREADY.



I BELIEVE THAT WAS YOUR TESTICLES, MR. MERKEL.

BEST DECISION I EVER MADE, NASTY LITTLE PRUNES THEY WERE, TOO!

IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO START DRAWING LINES IN THE SAND, SCANDAL SAVAGE.



IT IS PAST THE GIRL'S EVENING MEALTIME.

YOU WILL PROVIDE FOOD FOR HER.

LIKE ALL MERCENARIES, YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR PRIORITIES, MR. BANE. I ADMIRE THAT. SEX AND FOOD MUST ALWAYS BE SAFEGUARDED, OF COURSE, FOR MEN LIKE YOU TO WORK EFFECTIVELY.



DO NOT SAY THAT ABOUT HER AGAIN, IF YOU VALUE THE ABILITY TO WALK AND FEEL BELOW YOUR WAIST.

AH. FORGIVE ME. I MISJUDGED.

LOVE, NOT CARNAL PLEASURE, IS YOUR CONCERN.

PARDON MY VULGAR INTIMATION.



WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY MAY BE ABHORRENT, EVEN TO MEN AND WOMEN OF THE WORLD, SUCH AS YOURSELF.

I ASK THAT
YOU CONSIDER A
UNIVERSAL TRUTH THAT
ONLY THE BRAVEST WILL
ACKNOWLEDGE.



IT'S AN
IDEA THAT
IS GOING TO
SAVE THE
WORLD.

IT WILL RETURN ACCOMPLISHMENT
AND ART AND GLORY TO THE PEOPLE
OF EVERY NATION, AND IT STARTS RIGHT
HERE, WITH WHAT WE'RE BUILDING
ON THIS ISLAND.

I'M PREACHING AGAIN. I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO THAT.



OPEN MINDS, PLEASE,
FOR THIS QUESTION.
I BEG OF YOU.

WHAT DO ALL THE GREAT WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD HAVE IN COMMON?

THE
PYRAMIDS, THE
GREAT WALL... THE
GODLY ARCHITECTURE
THAT STILL MAKES THE
HUMAN HEART SING
EVEN AFTER UNTOLD
CENTURIES!



THEY
WERE ALL BUILT
BY *SLAVES*, MR.
SMYTH. *THAT* IS THE
CURSE THEY ALL
SHARE.

YES. THE MIND KNOWS THAT. BUT THE HEART...

THE HEART
KNOWS
BETTER.

TOURISTS FLOCK TO
SEE THESE GRAND GESTURES.
EVERY DAY, PEOPLE IN FAROFF
LANDS HEAR THEM CALL.



AND THE COST IS WHAT,
THE LIVES AND TOIL OF
A FEW SCATTERED
SOULS?

FOR WORKS
THAT LAST AN ETERNITY
AND INSPIRE AWE AND
GREATNESS IN ALL WHO
SEE THEM?

MOST OF THE
WORLD LIVES AND
DIES FOR *NOTHING*
AND *NO ONE*.

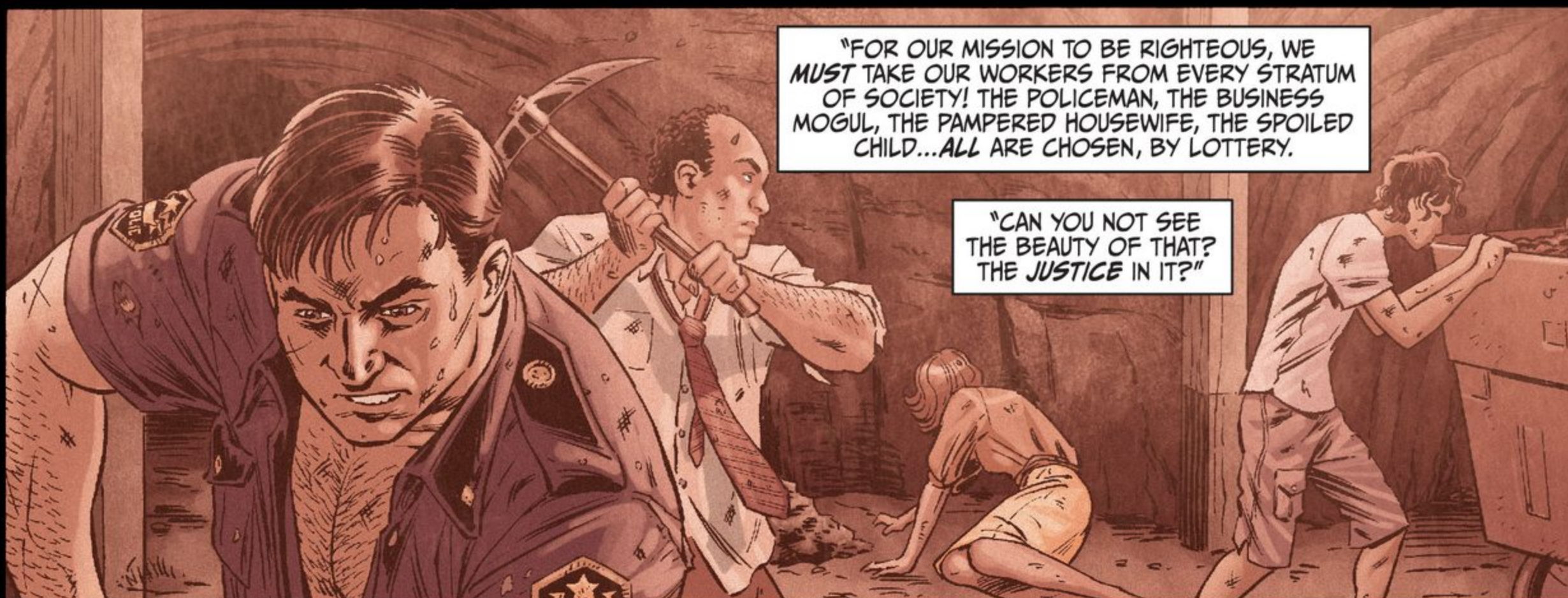
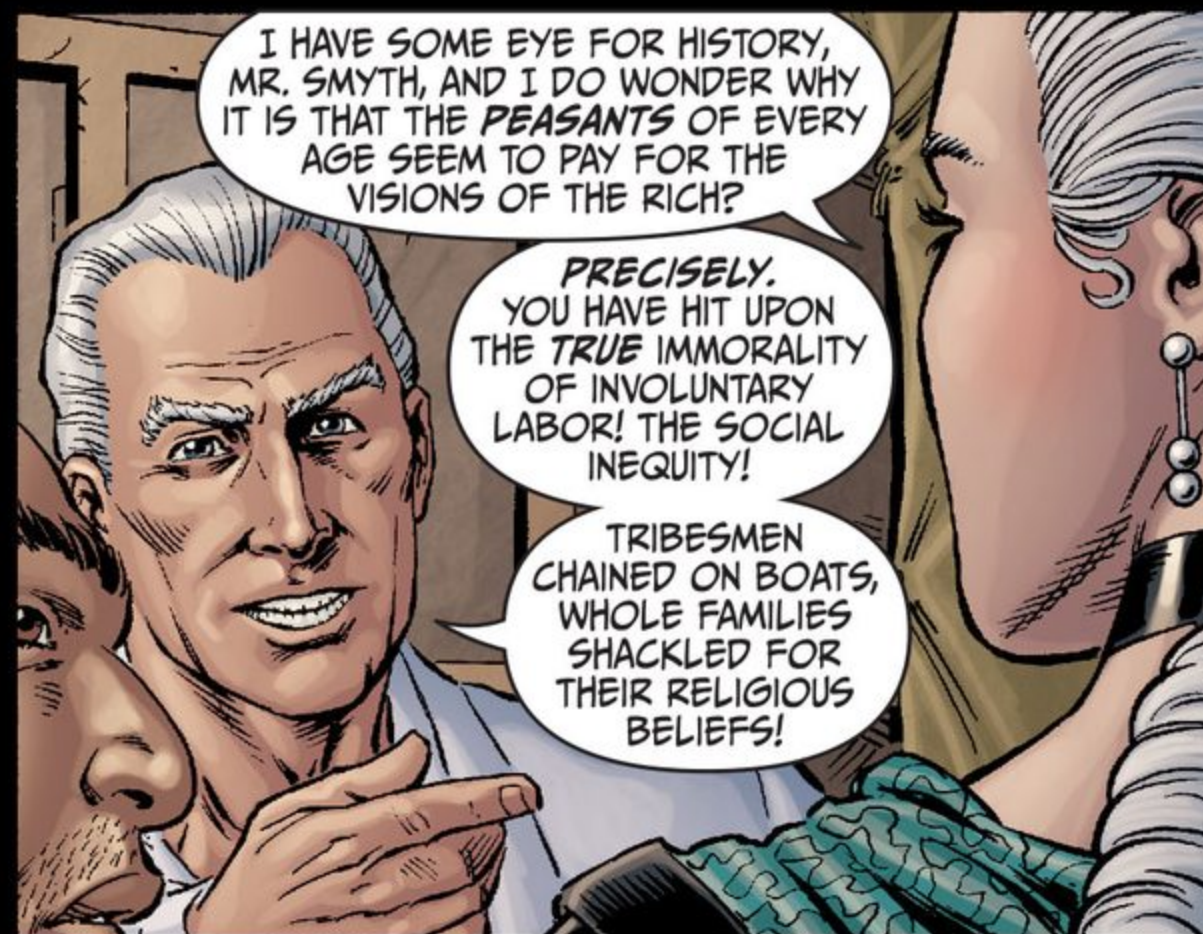
THOSE
"SLAVES,"
THEY DIED
FOR ALL.



I WILL BE HATED
FOR THIS. I WILL BE
MISUNDERSTOOD.

I PROPOSE
SLAVERY BE
RETURNED TO
EVERY NATION
ON EARTH.

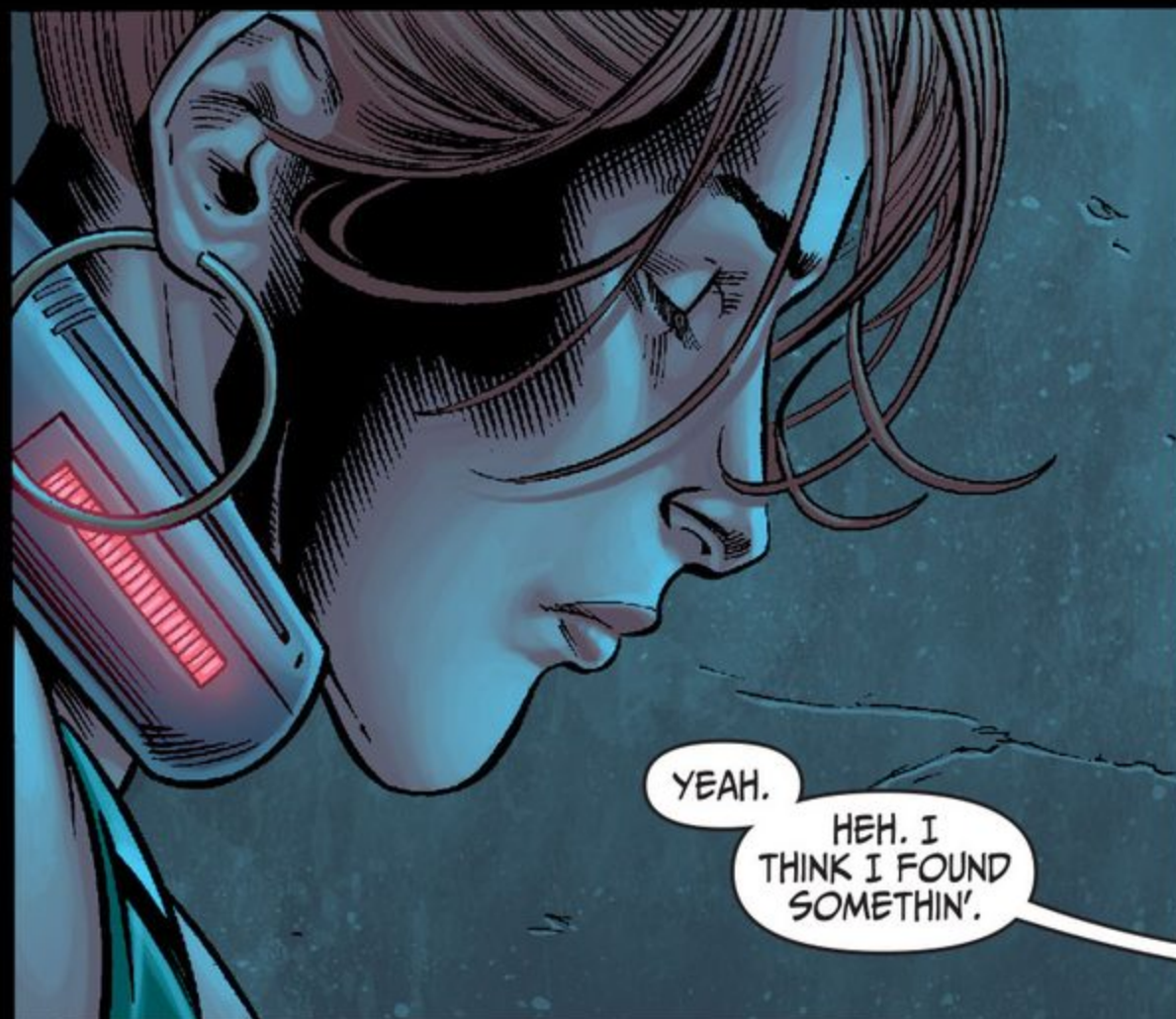
IT
WILL BE OUR
SALVATION.







I THINK,
FOR SAFETY'S
SAKE, A FURTHER
SEARCH IS
REQUIRED,
BOYS.
CAN'T BE TOO
CAREFUL.



YEAH.

HEH. I
THINK I FOUND
SOMETHIN'.



Hnd.
Wr yr hn.

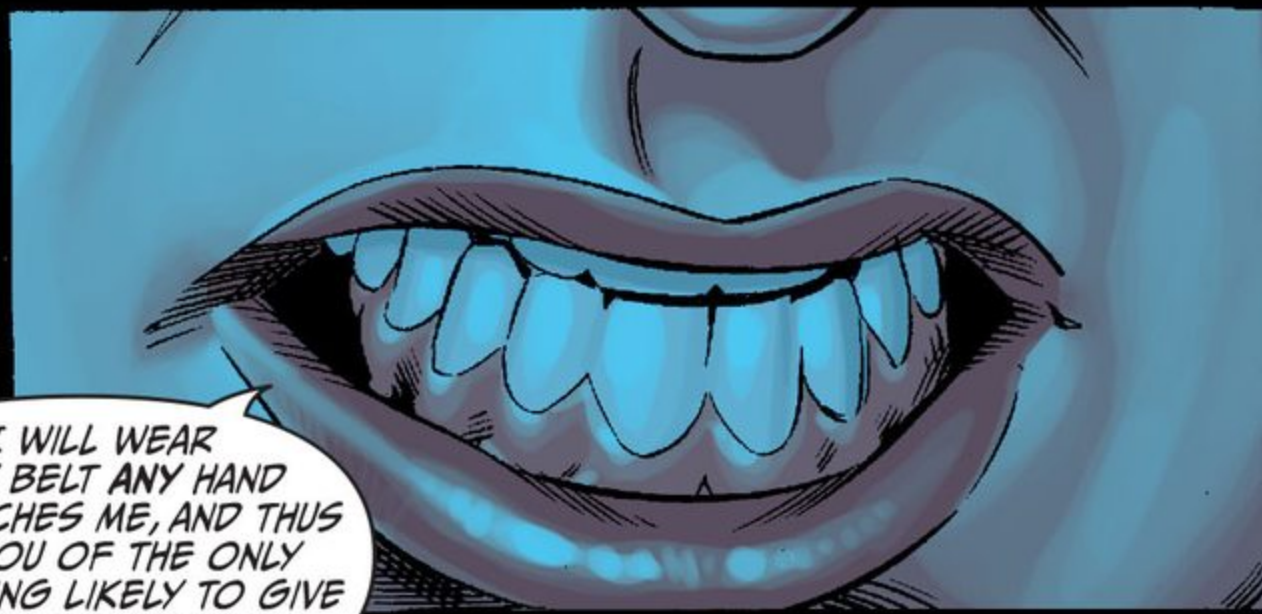
SHE'S
AWAKE.

SO
WHAT? THINK SHE'S
GONNA REGISTER A
COMPLAINT?

WHAT ARE
YOU TRYIN' TO SAY,
SWEETCHEEKS?
YOU LIKE THIS?



TRY
TO SY.



...I WILL WEAR
ON MY BELT ANY HAND
THAT TOUCHES ME, AND THUS
DENY YOU OF THE ONLY
LIVING THING LIKELY TO GIVE
YOU ANY SATISFACTION
VOLUNTARILY.



YOU SAW
HER, BOYS. SHE'S
RESISTIN' HER RIGHTFUL
INCARCERATION.

LIEUTENANT
GINTY.



THE THREE OF YOU ARE IMMEDIATELY RELIEVED OF ANY DUTY THAT INVOLVES FEMALE PRISONERS. YOU WILL REPORT TO ME IN THE MORNING FOR YOUR DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION.

CAPTAIN, WE WAS ONLY...

I KNOW WHAT YOU WERE "ONLY," LIEUTENANT. TOMORROW MORNING, 0600 HOURS SHARP, IN MY OFFICE.

DISMISSED.



SIR, YES, SIR.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DID THEY HURT YOU?

PROTOCOL SAYS YOU CAN FILE A FORMAL GRIEVANCE.



I'M SORRY. THEY WERE... THAT'S NOT WHAT WE DO HERE.

THE HAIR, IT'S IN YOUR EYES.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME WATER BEFORE I GO?



I WANT MANY THINGS.

BUT I DON'T ASK FAVORS OF SWINE.



I AM NOT LIKE THOSE MEN. THEY WERE TRYING TO...

NO.

YOU ARE FAR, FAR WORSE.



THOSE MEN WERE ACTING AS THEIR INSTINCTS AND NATURE TELL THEM TO.

THEY DON'T SPEND THE DAY FOOLING THEMSELVES ABOUT THEIR "DECENCY."

THEY DON'T CLAIM TO BE GOOD MEN.

AS SOME DO. HYPOCRITES, THE INSANE AND THE SELF-DELUDED.



YOU CAN'T KNOW. IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE, FROM YOUR POSITION.

BUT WE'RE TRYING TO DO SOMETHING **GOOD** FOR THE WORLD.

THAT'S THE WAY OF IT, CAPTAIN.

ALWAYS FIRST, THE GOOD INTENTIONS, THE BELIEF IN CHANGE. THE SNEERING DISMISSAL OF PREVIOUS JAILER'S FAILURES.



BUT THEN, PERHAPS A PRISONER DOESN'T BEHAVE AS EXPECTED.

CAN'T HAVE THAT, SHE COULD INFECT THE ENTIRE POPULATION.

SO, A BLIND EYE IS TURNED, FOR THE GREATER GOOD.



PERHAPS SHE IS TREATED UNKINDLY. PERHAPS SHE IS THEN BEATEN.

AND THEN, YOU ARE MERE TISSUES OF MORALITY AWAY FROM RAPE, FROM TORTURE.

WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE THE FIRST HIDDEN GRAVEYARDS WILL GO, CAPTAIN TORRES? I'VE SEEN SMYTH'S EYES. IT WON'T BE LONG, IF IT HASN'T HAPPENED ALREADY.



YOU DON'T... YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND.

I BELIEVE I DO. THESE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS...

...THEY ARE ABERRATIONS. THEY'LL DISSIPATE ONCE THE SYSTEM IS IN PLACE, YES? LET ME TELL YOU THE TRUTH, CAPTAIN.



YOU ARE THE ABERRATION, AND THE SYSTEM IS **ALREADY** CORRUPT.

I WILL NOT SHARE YOUR FANTASY... I'VE SEEN YOUR EYES, AND ON THE WHOLE, I BELIEVE I WOULD PREFER THE COMPANY OF THE FILTH YOU SENT AWAY.

SLEEP WELL, CAPTAIN. BUT REMEMBER THIS.



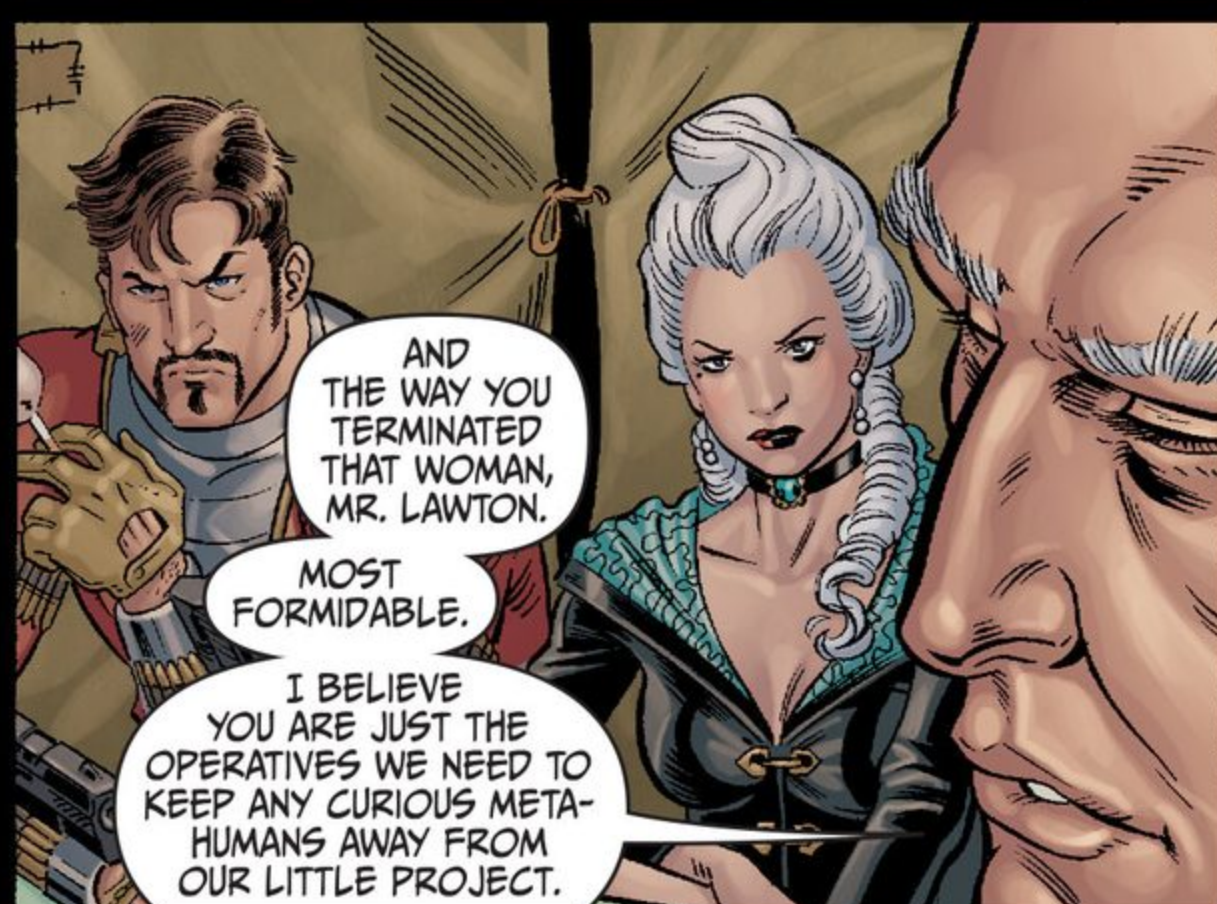
HISTORY HAS PROVEN THAT THOSE WHO CHAIN AN AMAZON TEND TO NOT DIE **LOVELY**.

NOW GET OUT OF MY SIGHT, YOU WORTHLESS CHILD.



FORGIVE ME, I FIND I AM A LITTLE TIRED. EMIL AND GUIANA WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR QUARTERS. I TRUST YOU WILL FIND THEM SERVICEABLE.

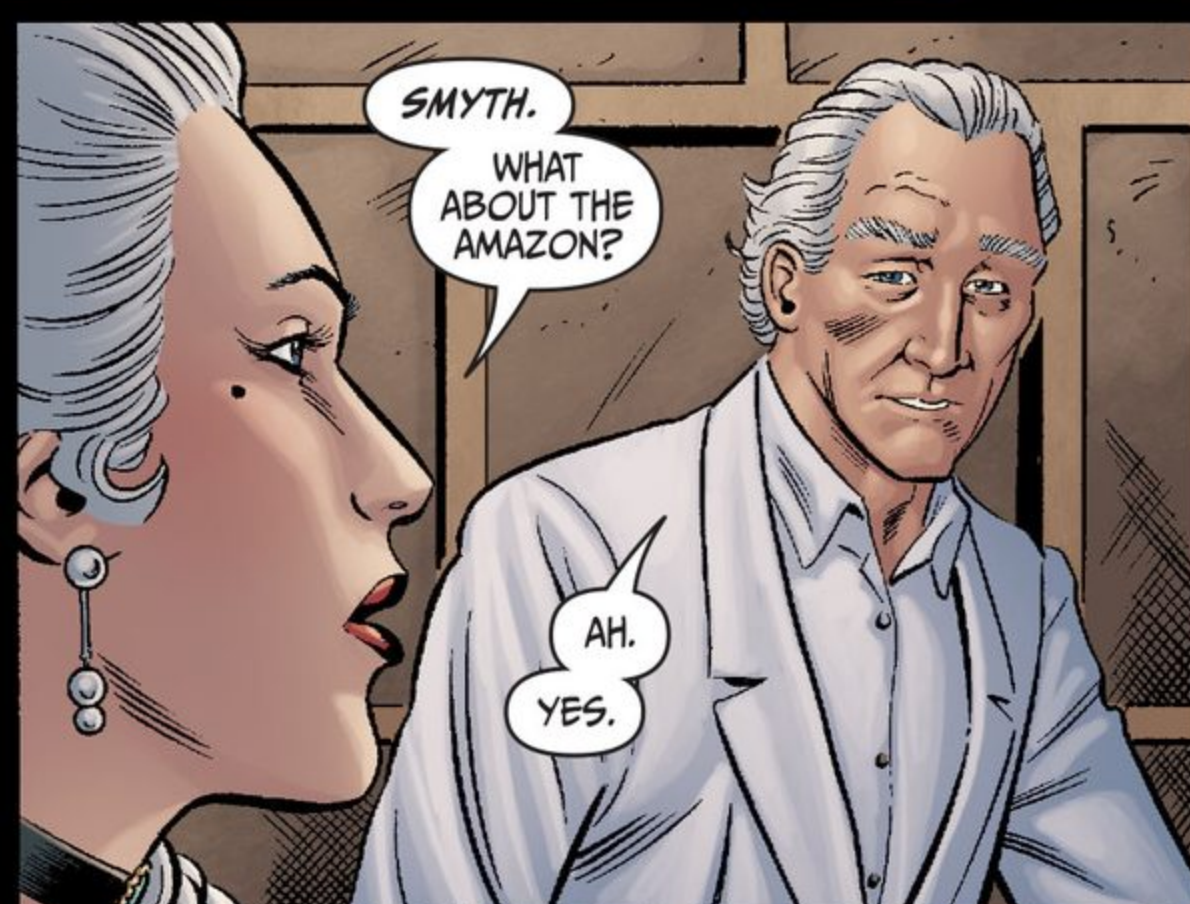
I MUST SAY, I AM VERY IMPRESSED WITH ALL OF YOU, THE WAY YOU DISPATCHED THOSE REBELS WITHOUT EVEN BEING TOLD.



AND THE WAY YOU TERMINATED THAT WOMAN, MR. LAWTON.

MOST FORMIDABLE.

I BELIEVE YOU ARE JUST THE OPERATIVES WE NEED TO KEEP ANY CURIOUS META-HUMANS AWAY FROM OUR LITTLE PROJECT.



SMYTH.

WHAT ABOUT THE AMAZON?

AH.

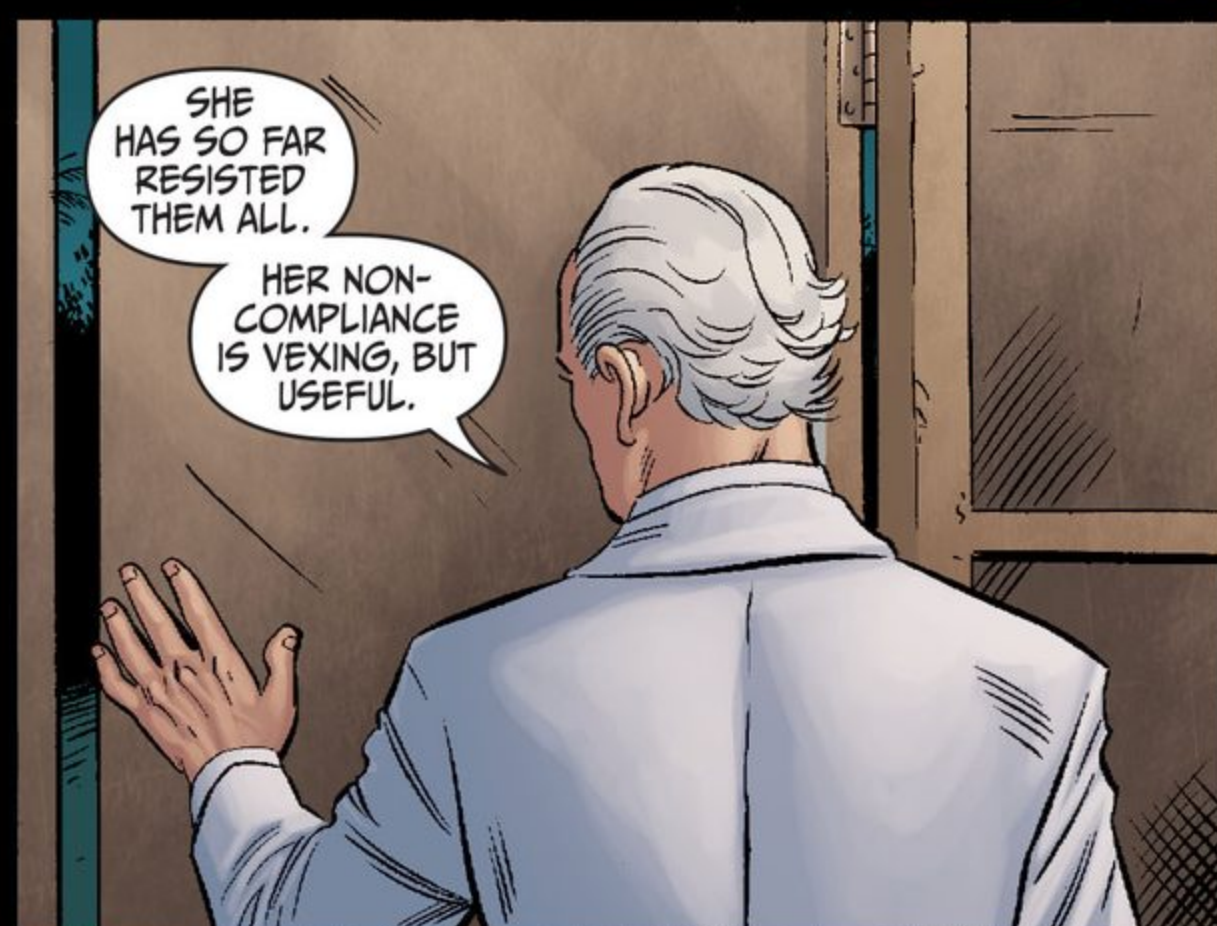
YES.



"AN INTERESTING CASE, THAT ONE.

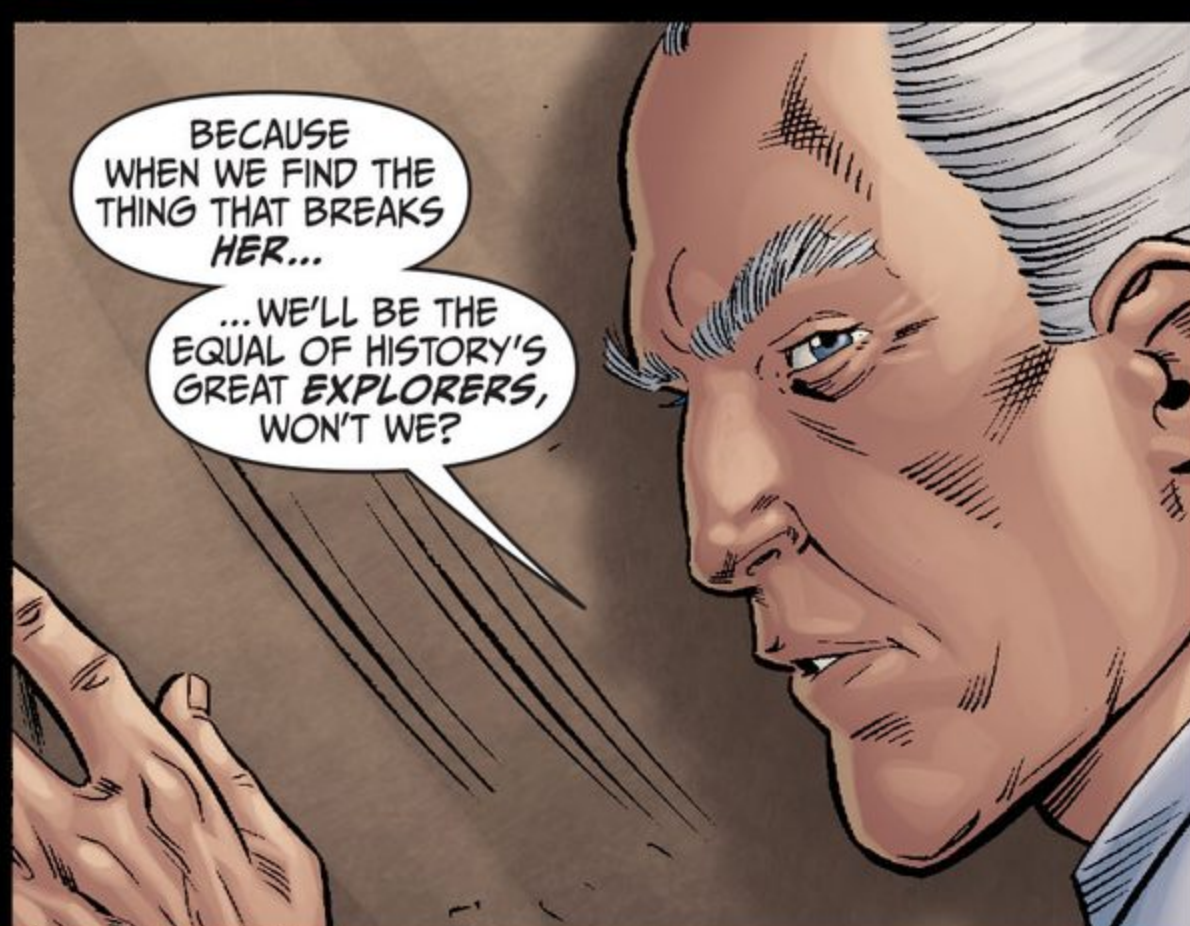
"OF ALL THE SUBJECTS WE'VE CAPTURED, METAHUMAN OR OTHERWISE, SHE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS RESISTED ALL EFFORTS AT BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION.

"DRUGS, BRAINWASHING, ENHANCED INTERROGATION..."



SHE HAS SO FAR RESISTED THEM ALL.

HER NON-COMPLIANCE IS VEXING, BUT USEFUL.



BECAUSE WHEN WE FIND THE THING THAT BREAKS HER...

...WE'LL BE THE EQUAL OF HISTORY'S GREAT EXPLORERS, WON'T WE?





ONE
PRISON FOR
EVERY FELON
IN THE ENTIRE
WORLD!



YOU DO
GET THAT YOU'RE
COMPLETELY NUTS,
RIGHT?

IF THAT IS
WHAT IT TAKES TO
SAVE THE WORLD,
THEN SO BE IT.

WE BOUGHT THE
GOVERNMENT OF THIS
COUNTRY. EVERYTHING
WE'VE DONE
IS COMPLETELY
LEGAL.

MOSTLY.



THE
MAJORITY OF
BUSINESSES WILL
BE ALLOWED TO
CONTINUE,
UNDER OUR
LEADERSHIP.

GET SOME
REST. TOMORROW
YOU BEGIN YOUR
DUTIES.



SLAVERS,
THOMAS.

I KNOW,
SCANDAL. BUT
WE TOOK THE
CONTRACT.

LOOK,
I'M BEAT. WE'LL
FIGURE IT OUT IN
THE MORNING.



I DON'T
KNOW. I'M
KINDA WARMING
UP TO THE
IDEA.

IF THE BAT'S TOO MUCH OF A
COWARD TO KILL THE JOKER,
WOULDN'T YOU RATHER HAVE
HIM *HERE*, WITH ALL HIS LITTLE
ARKHAM PLAYPALS?

LOTTA
DEAD *SMILEY*
GUYS MIGHT
TEND TO THINK
SO, I BET.



YES.

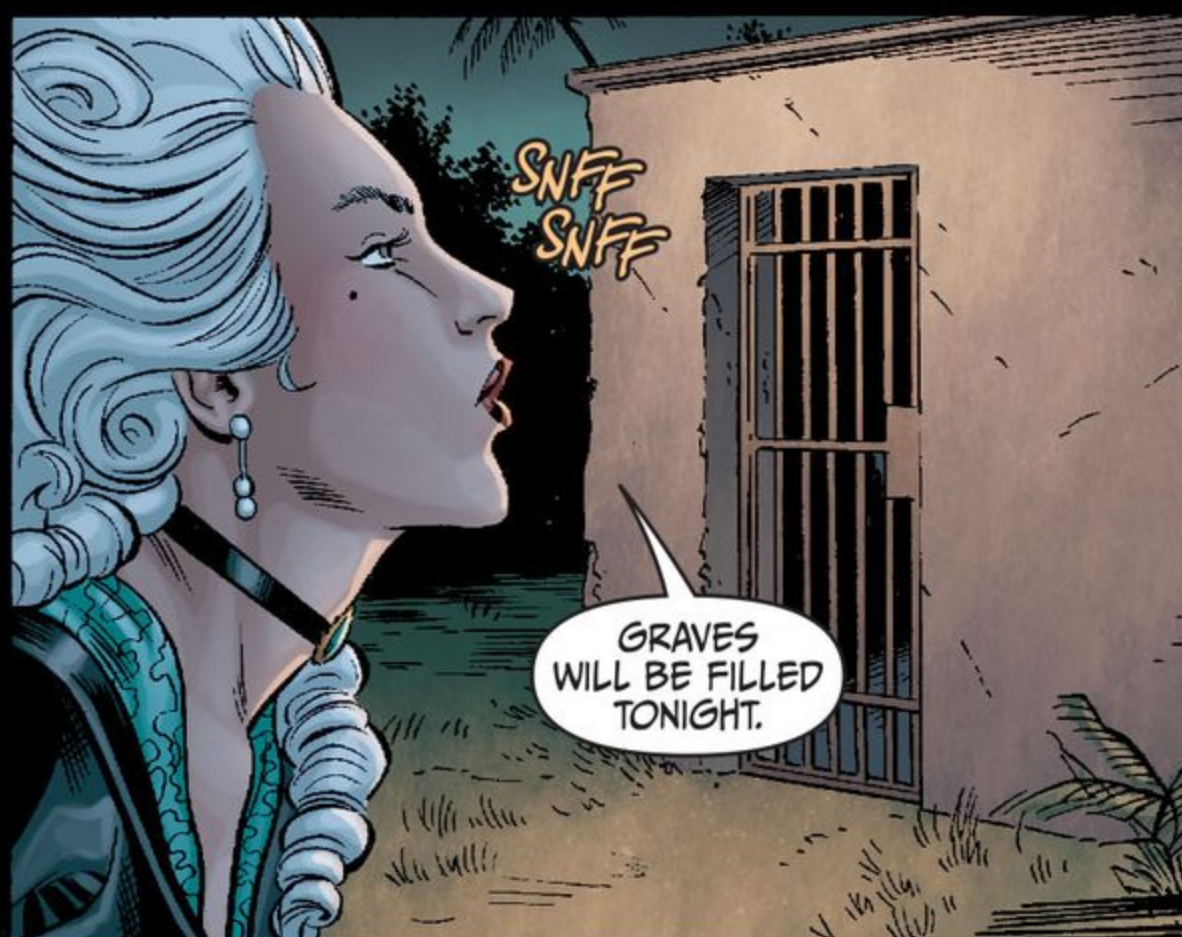
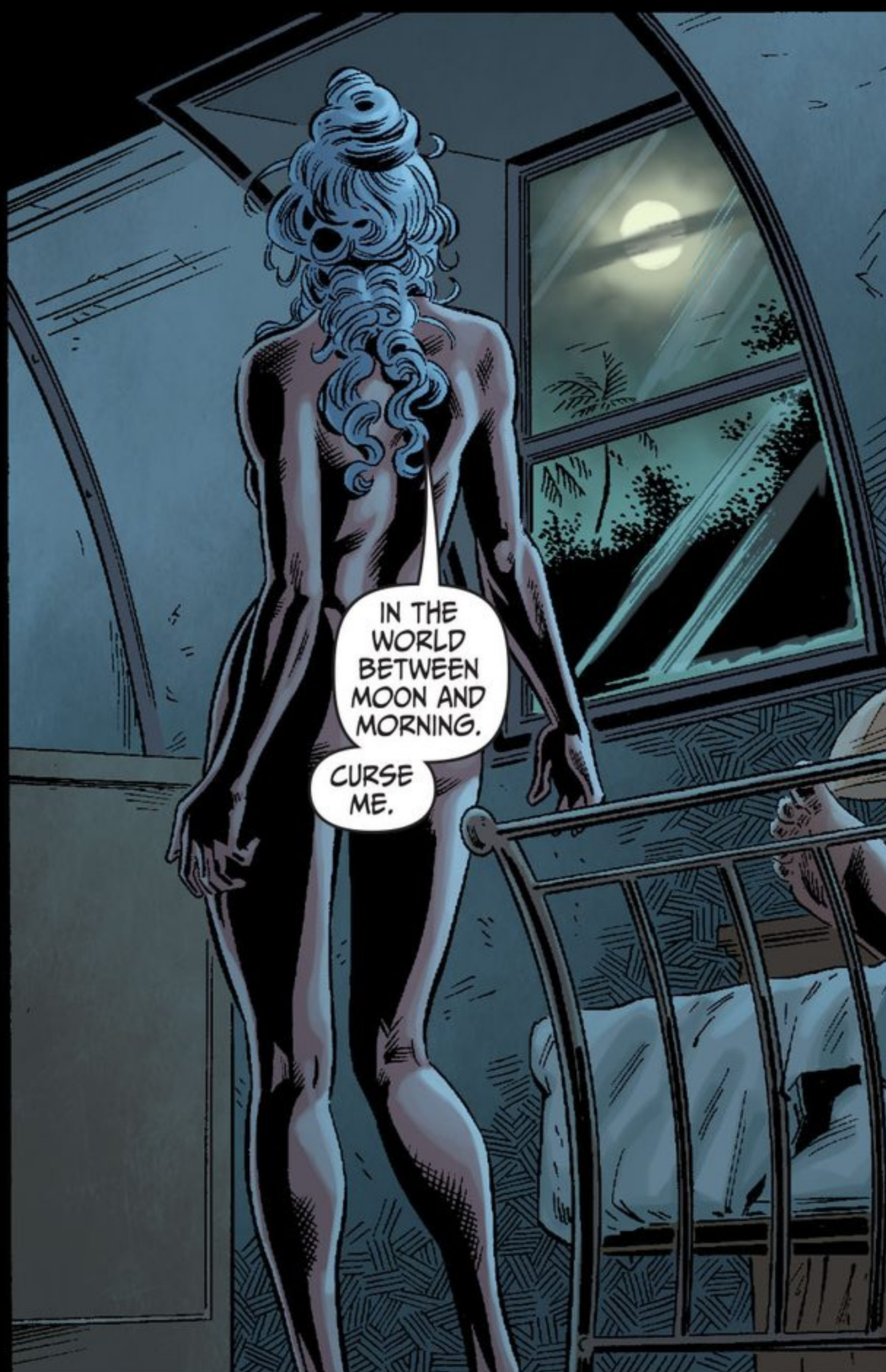
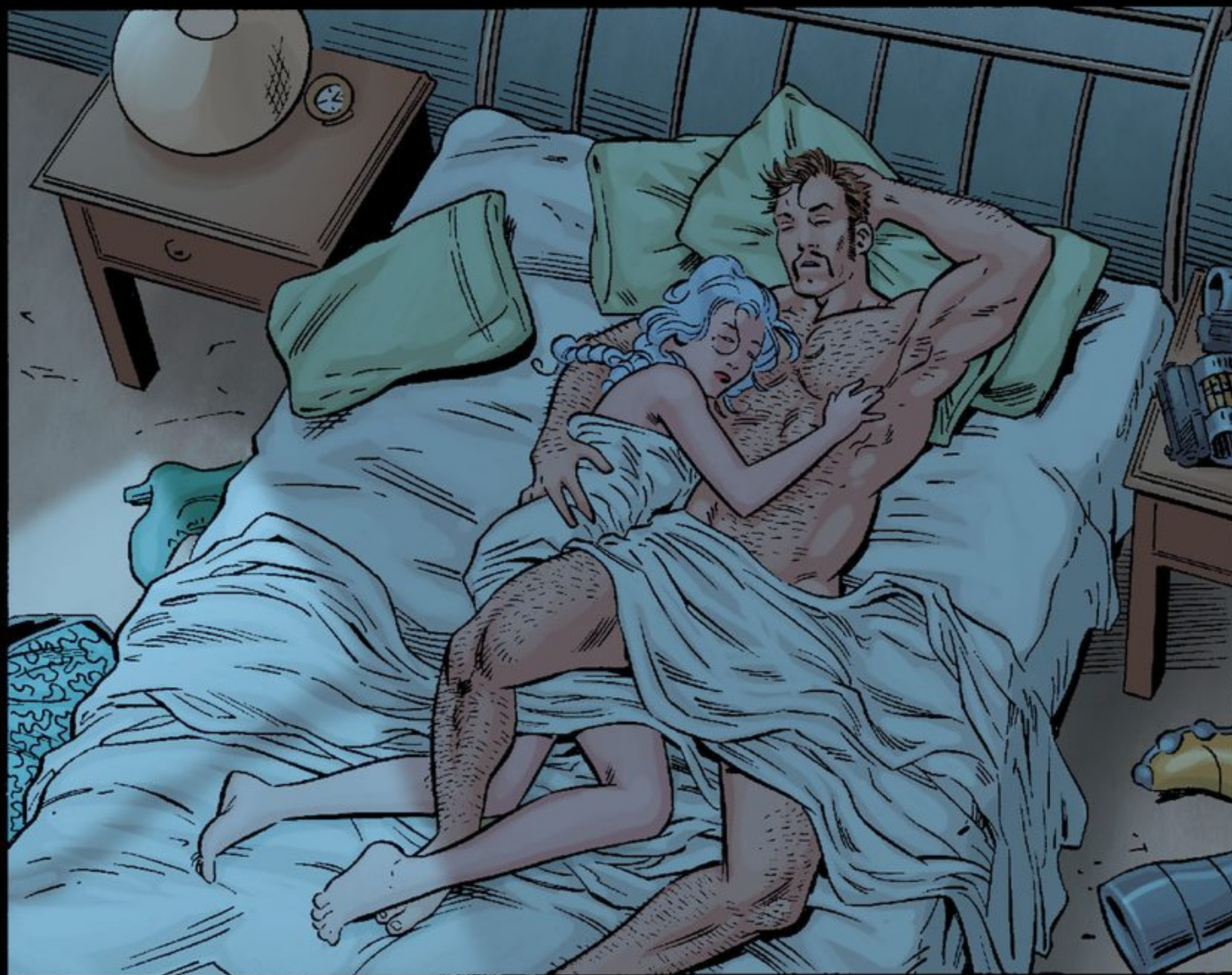
WHY NOT
A UNIVERSAL
GULAG?

WHERE
WILL THE
POLITICAL
PRISONERS GO,
I WONDER?



I ANSWER
THAT QUESTION
WITH A QUESTION,
DOLLFACE.

WHO
GIVES A
~%##?



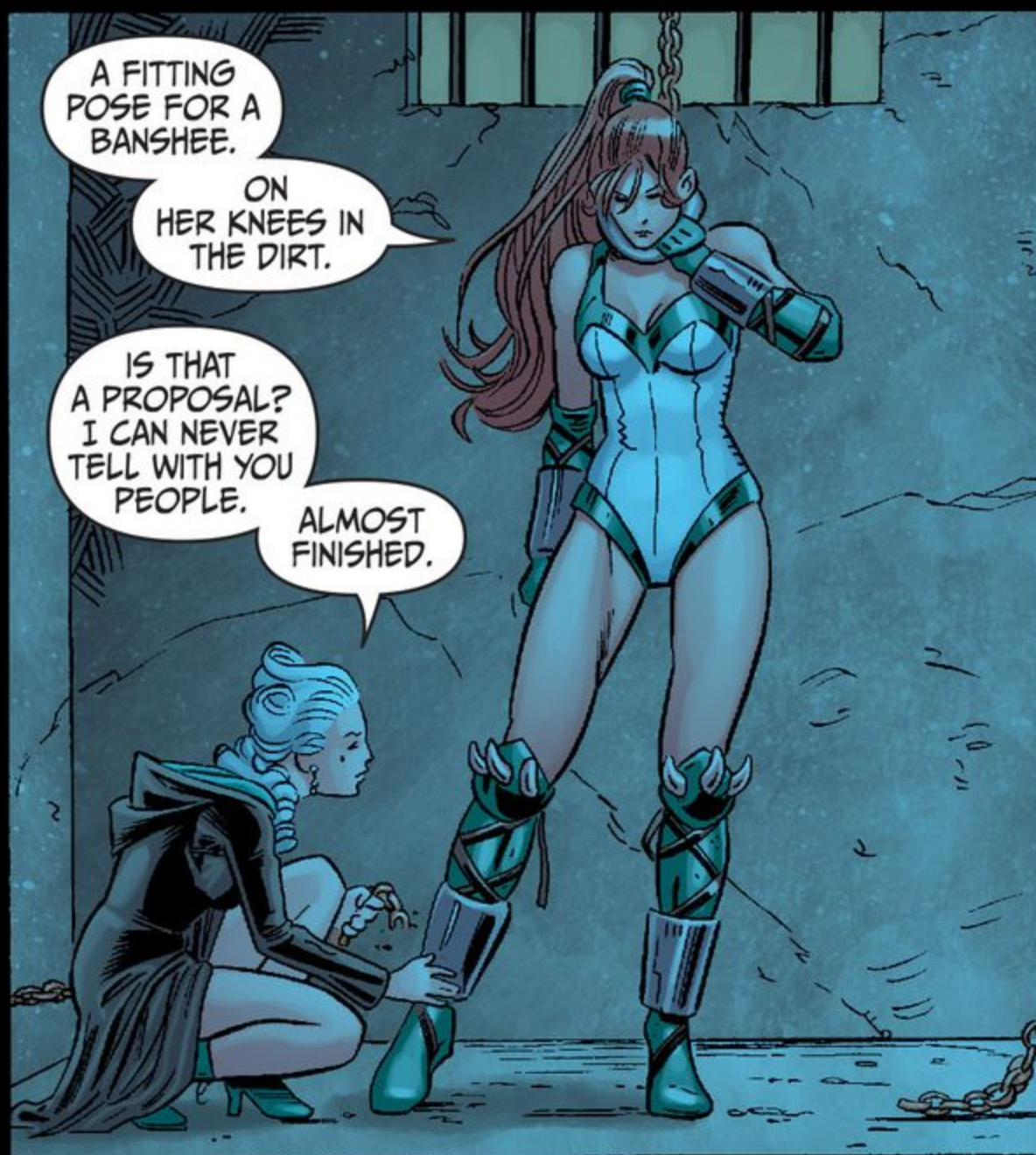




DIDN'T YOU
HARPIES USED TO HAVE
A SIZEABLE CULTURAL
ISSUE ABOUT BEING
BOUND?

HOW THE
MIGHTY HAVE
FALLEN.

DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE MISSING,
FRANKLY.



A FITTING
POSE FOR A
BANSHEE.

ON
HER KNEES IN
THE DIRT.

IS THAT
A PROPOSAL?
I CAN NEVER
TELL WITH YOU
PEOPLE.

ALMOST
FINISHED.



JUST A QUICK
WEE POINT OF
CLARIFICATION,
FIRST.

IT'S
TRUE THAT
I DON'T LIKE
AMAZONS.

BUT FOR
SOME GOD-
CURSED REASON,
I DON'T LIKE THE
THOUGHT OF THESE
OILY MEN KEEPING
YOU HERE.

SO I'M
LETTING
YOU GO.



BUT
MAKE NO
MISTAKE. I
WANT YOU
GONE.

AND
DARLING KITTEN,
PROUDEST OF
ALL THE BANA-
MIGHDALL...

...YOU NOW
OWE ME.



UH.
WUWHH.

WE...
AHHUHH...

...AGREE ON
ONE POINT.



I DEFINITELY
OWE YOU
SOMETHING.



THERE ARE MORE AMAZONS HELD CAPTIVE IN THE MAIN BUILDING.

YOU'LL HELP ME FREE THEM.

SIGH.

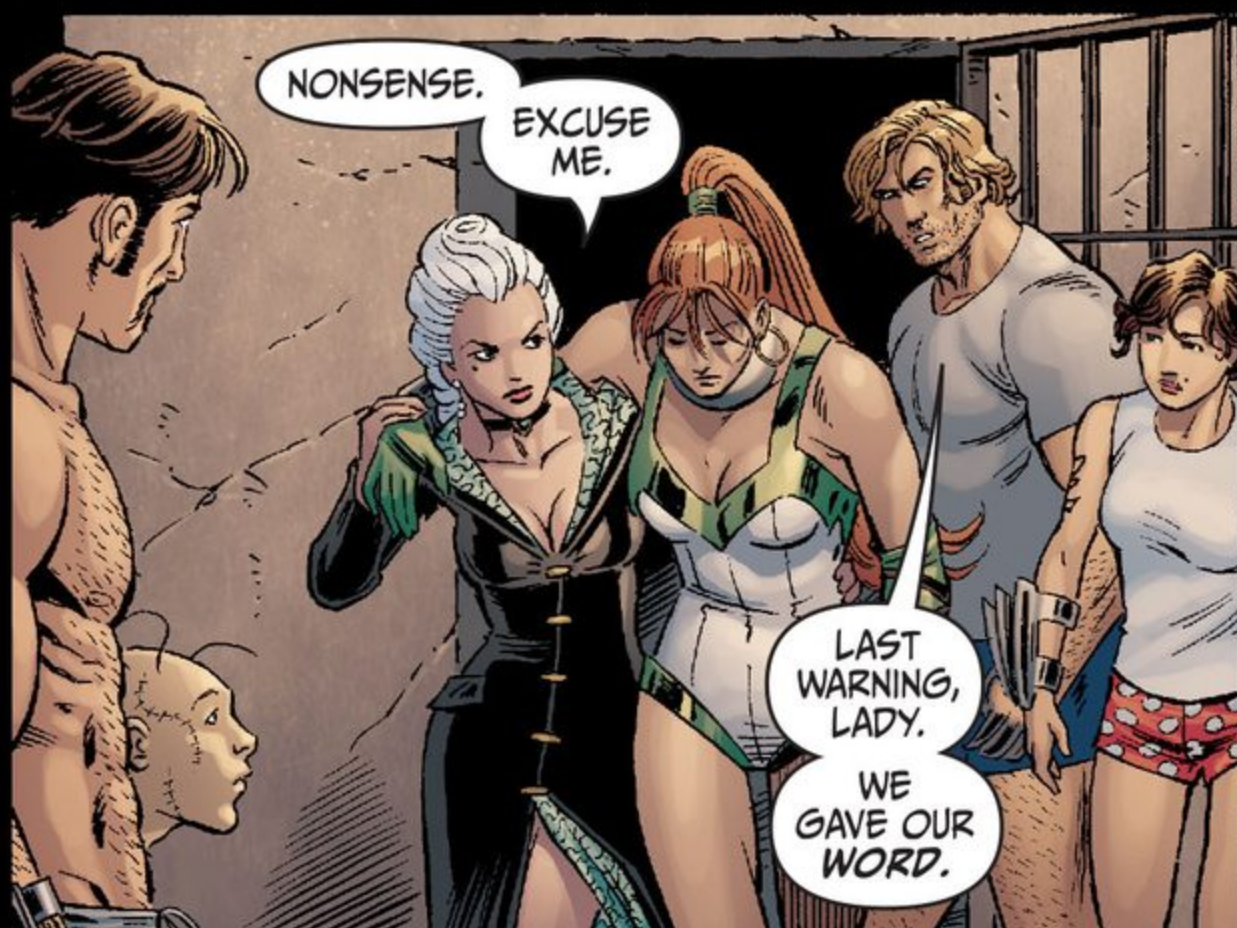
WHERE IN THE MAIN BUILDING, SPECIFICALLY?



I'M AFRAID I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT, JEANNETTE.

WE TOOK A JOB.

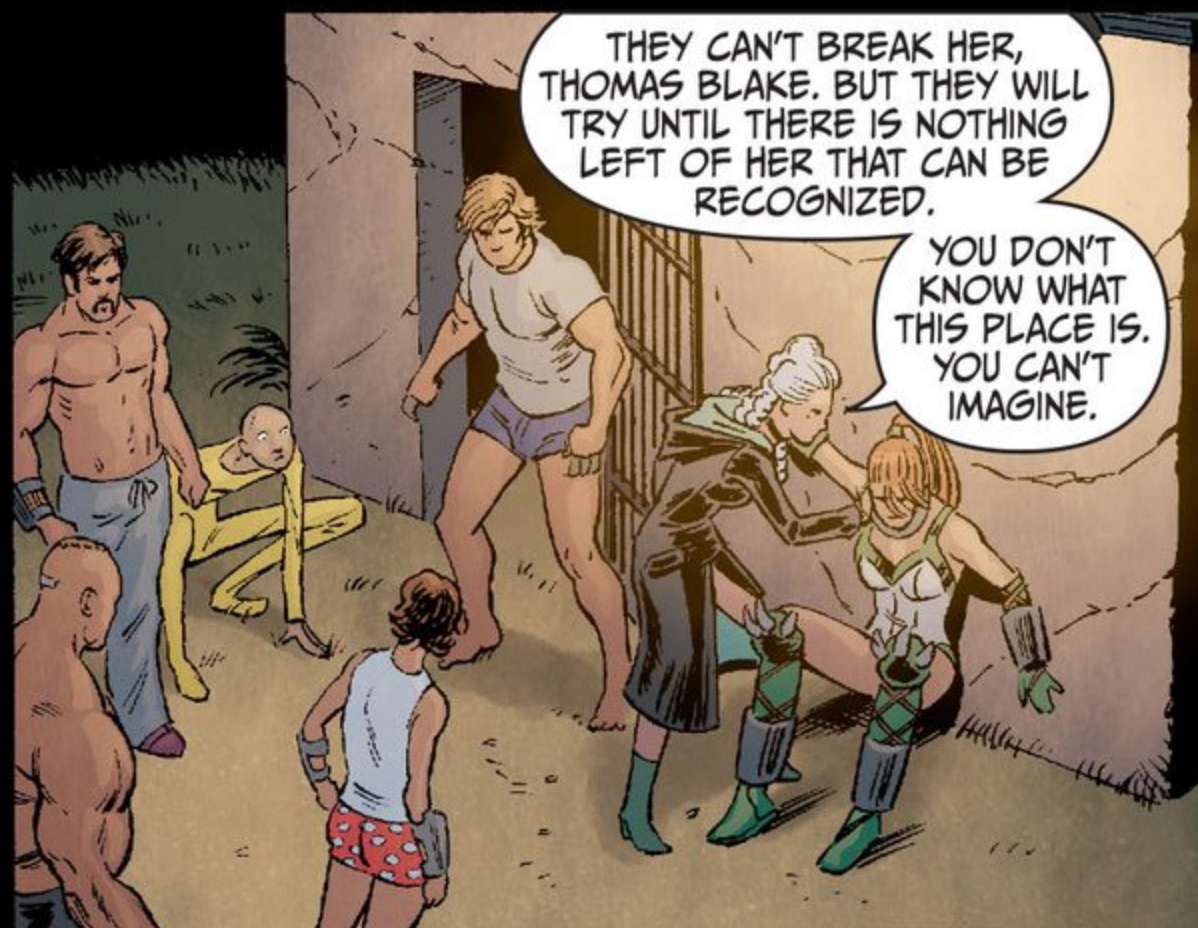
WE GAVE OUR WORD.



NONSENSE.

EXCUSE ME.

LAST WARNING, LADY. WE GAVE OUR WORD.



THEY CAN'T BREAK HER, THOMAS BLAKE. BUT THEY WILL TRY UNTIL THERE IS NOTHING LEFT OF HER THAT CAN BE RECOGNIZED.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS PLACE IS. YOU CAN'T IMAGINE.



HEY, I DONE TIME MORE'N ONCE.

HA HA HA!

YES, BELLE REVE, THE BEAUTIFUL DREAM.

AN AMERICAN PRISON WITH FURLOUGHS, YES?

SHALL I TELL YOU OF KILMAINHAM GAOL, DEAREST? WHERE I WAS KEPT IN A BASEMENT CELL FOR TWO YEARS WITH NO ROOM TO LIE DOWN, AS THE SEWAGE FROM THE ENTIRE PRISON WASHED ACROSS MY FEET EVERY NIGHT?



SHALL I TELL YOU OF THE GULAGS, WHERE ICY STARVATION LED TO MY FIRST TASTE OF FROZEN HUMAN FLESH?



THE THEFT OF
CONVICT ORGANS FROM
THEIR STILL-LIVING
BODIES IN CHINA?

PARENTS
FORCED TO SLEEP
WITH THEIR...

IF YOU
WANT.

IT DON'T
CHANGE A
THING.

WE TOOK THE
JOB. WE BREAK
THE DEAL, THERE
AIN'T NO SIX.



VERY
WELL,
THEN.

IF THIS
IS HOW IT
MUST BE.

HAVE
AT IT.



THIS ENTIRE
ENTERPRISE IS AN
ABOMINATION.

I WILL
HAVE NO PART
OF IT.



WELL,
WHAT ARE
YOU WAITING
FOR?
PICK A SIDE,
SAVAGE.

TIME'S
RUNNING OUT,
HERE.



I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHAT WE'RE
FIGHTING
ABOUT.

SOME FILTHY
PRISONERS ARE MILDLY
INCONVENIENCED? THEY
GET HUNG BY THEIR
GENITALS OR DON'T GET
EXTRA PUDDING?

WHO
CARES?



THOMAS.
YOU
CAN'T WIN
THIS.

I KNOW,
SCANDAL.



AND I
SINCERELY
HOPE TO GOD
YOU CAN HEAL
FROM THIS.



SCANDAL!

TRAITOR!

I'LL
MUTILATE
EVERY
PART OF
YOU!



GUGGG...

AW,
HELL.

CARNAGE!
GOODY!

SORRY,
BANE. NOT
TODAY.

GET THE
WOMAN.



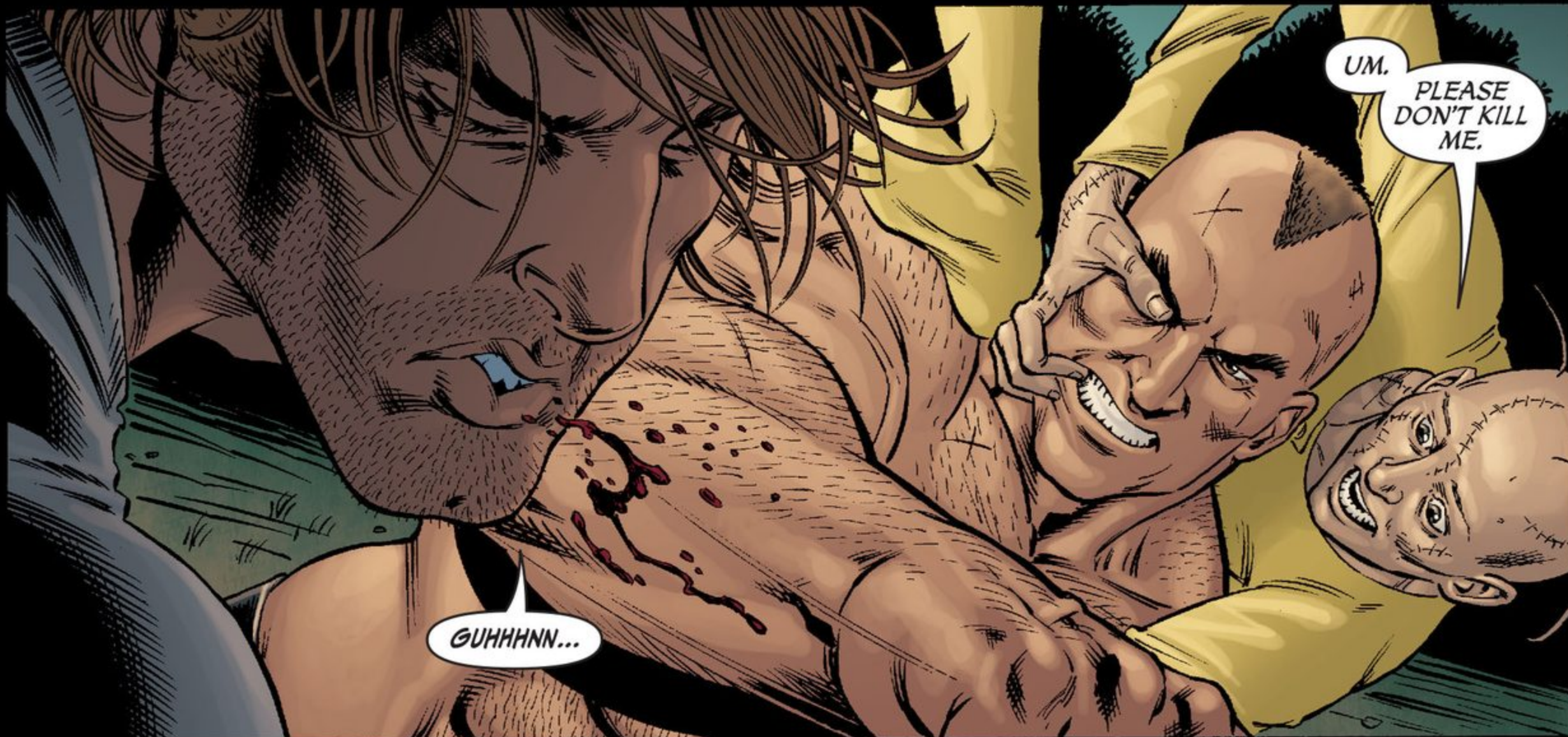
BLAM

AN' I WAS JUST
STARTIN' TO GET
USED TO GETTING
IT REGULAR.



RRRGHHH!!

UH,
OH.



UM.
PLEASE
DON'T KILL
ME.

GUHHHNN...



NOW
I DID ASK
NICELY
FOR
YOU NOT TO
KILL ME!

POOR
SPORT! POOR
SPORT!

YES.
GRAVES
WILL BE FILLED
INDEED.



WELL,
CRAP.

I GAVE YOU
MY HEART AND
MY VIRTUE.
AND
RECEIVE
BULLETS
INSTEAD OF
ROSES.

**BLAM
BLAM
BLAM**

I'M
NOT SURE, DEAR
MR. LAWTON...



... THAT
WE'RE REALLY
MEANT FOR
EACH OTHER.

AW,
SWEETIE...
~choke~

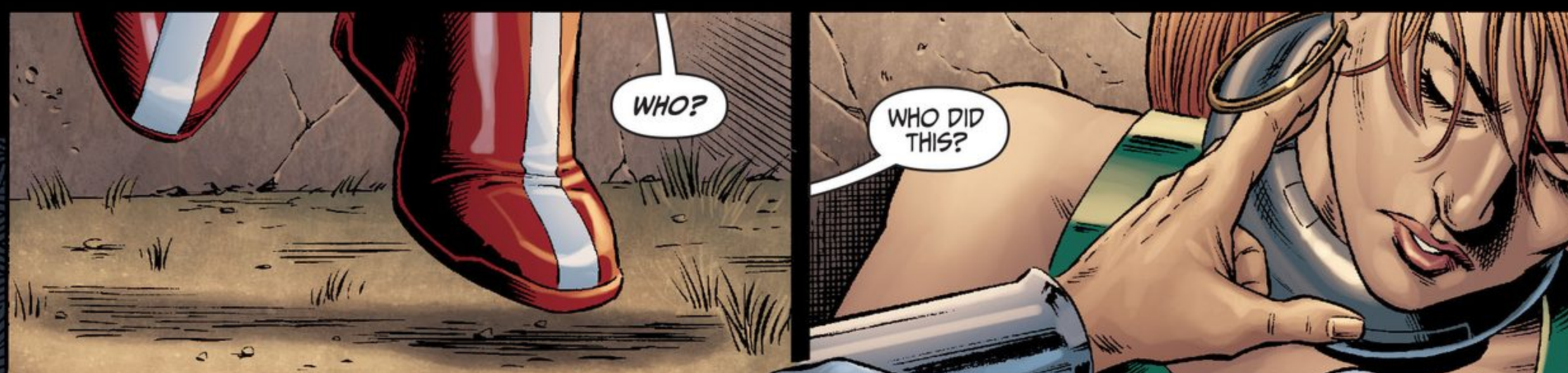
AIN'T I...
ackkk...
YER LITTLE
POOPIKINS
NO MORE?



KNEW
YOU DIDN'T
BELONG, YOU
OVERGROWN
JOKE.

OH,
THOMAS,
LOOK! SCANDAL
IS ALIVE!
HOORAY!

I'LL KILL
HER FOR US,
SHALL I?



DC
SECRET

12
OCT '09

GAIL
SIMONE
NICOLA
SCOTT
DOUG
HAZLEWOOD





WHICH ONE
OF YOU DID
THIS?

WHO KILLED
MY SISTER
ARTEMIS?

DON'T
TELL HER
ANYTHING.

WE DON'T
OWE THIS ARROGANT
CREATURE A BLESSED
THING UNDER THE
MOON OR STARS.

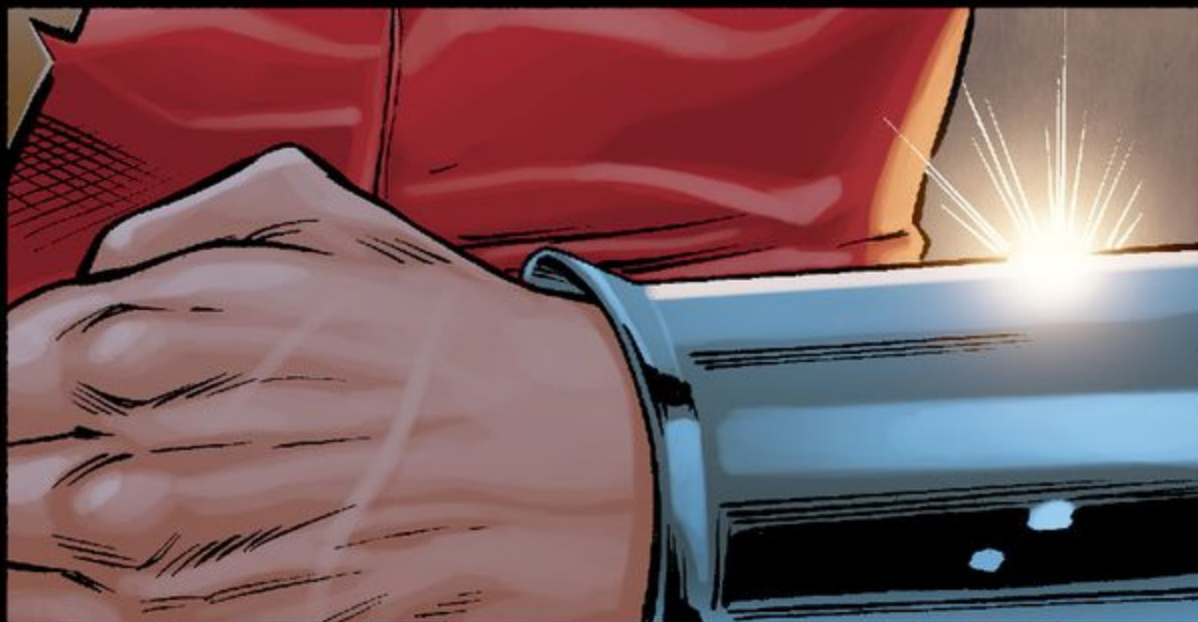
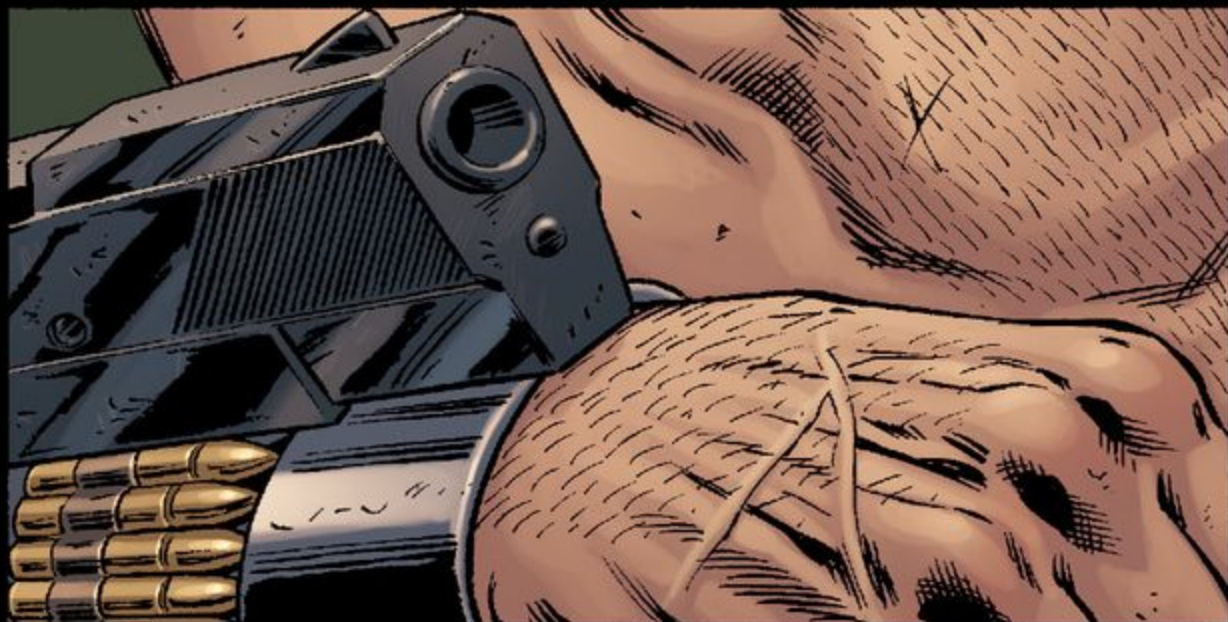
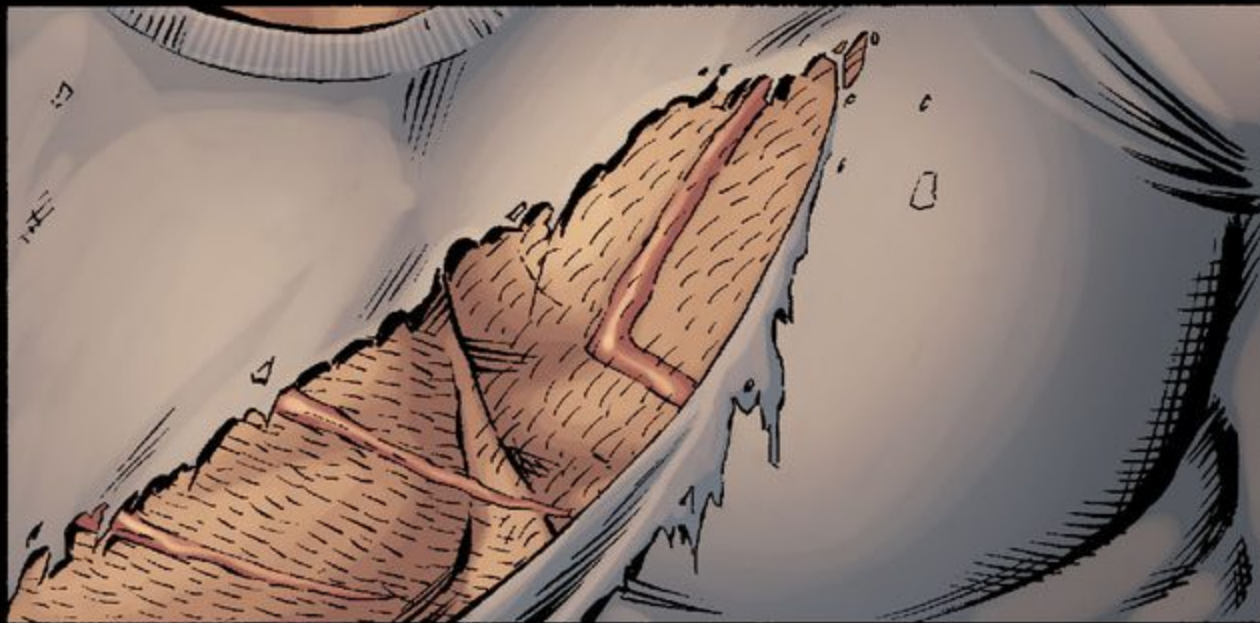
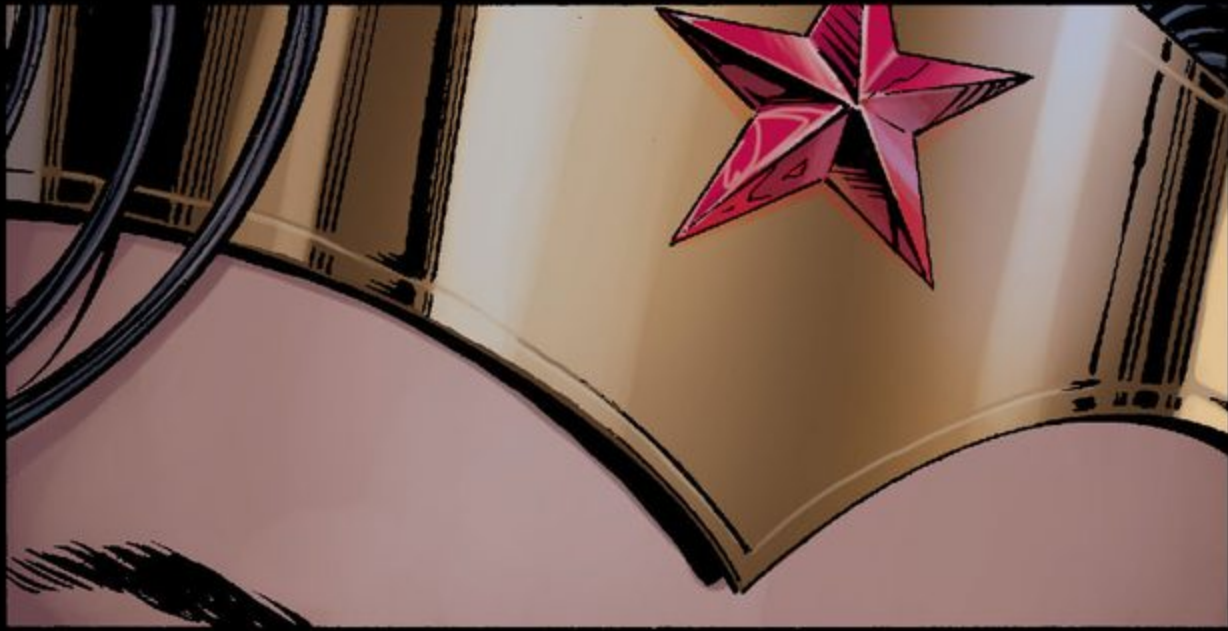
GO TO HELL,
AMAZON.

DEPTHS

PART THREE

INFERNO

GAIL SIMONE-WRITER
NICOLA SCOTT-PENCILLER
DOUG HAZLEWOOD AND MARK MCKENNA-INKERS
JASON WRIGHT-COLORIST SWANDS-LETTERER
SEAN RYAN-EDITOR





DON'T CALL ME THAT.
NOW SOMEONE ANSWER MY QUESTION.



I SUPPOSE IF I SHOOT AT YOU, YOU'LL JUST DO THAT BULLETS AND BLOOMERS THING, RIGHT?

BULLETS AND BRACELETS.

AND WHY NOT TRY IT AND FIND OUT?



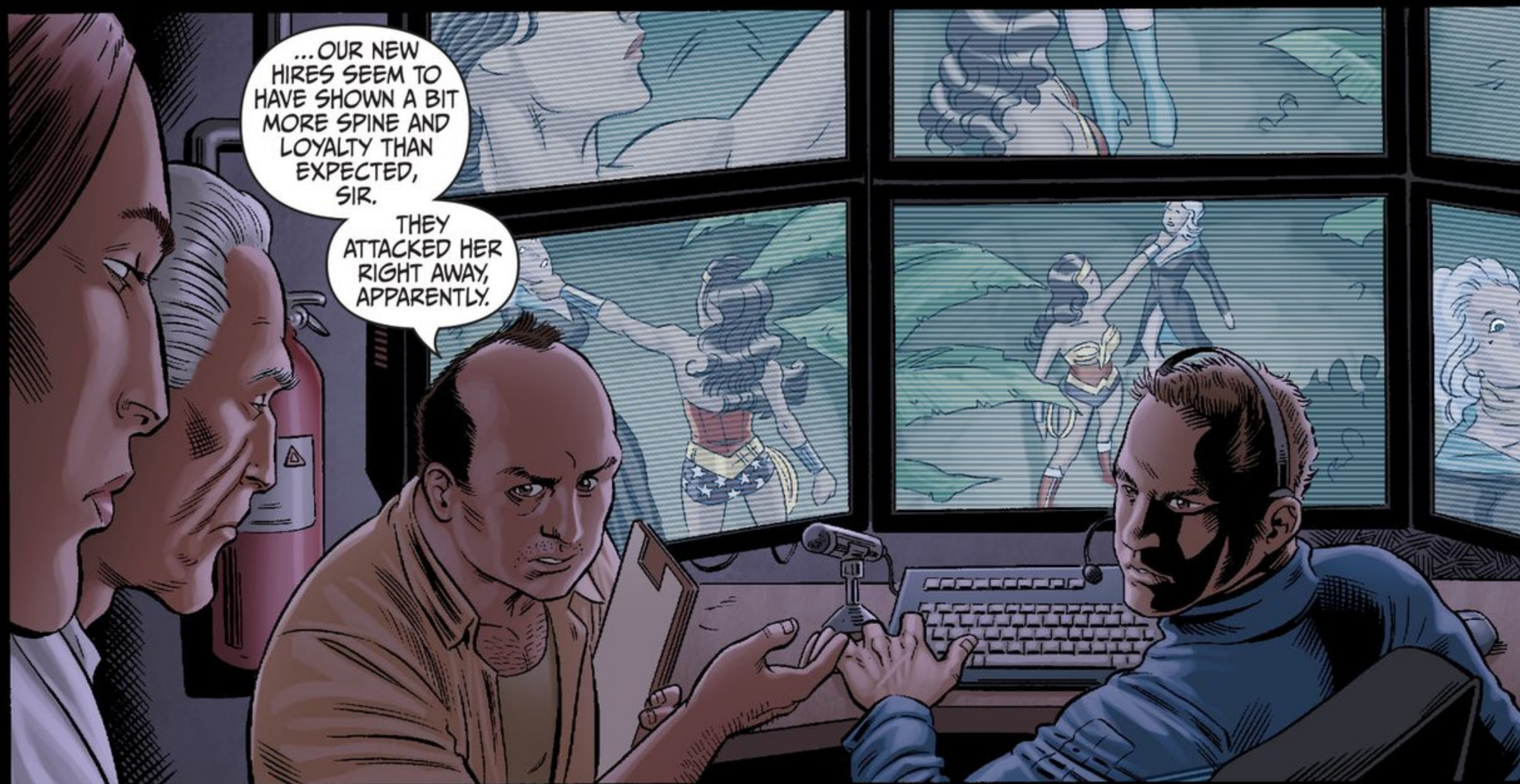
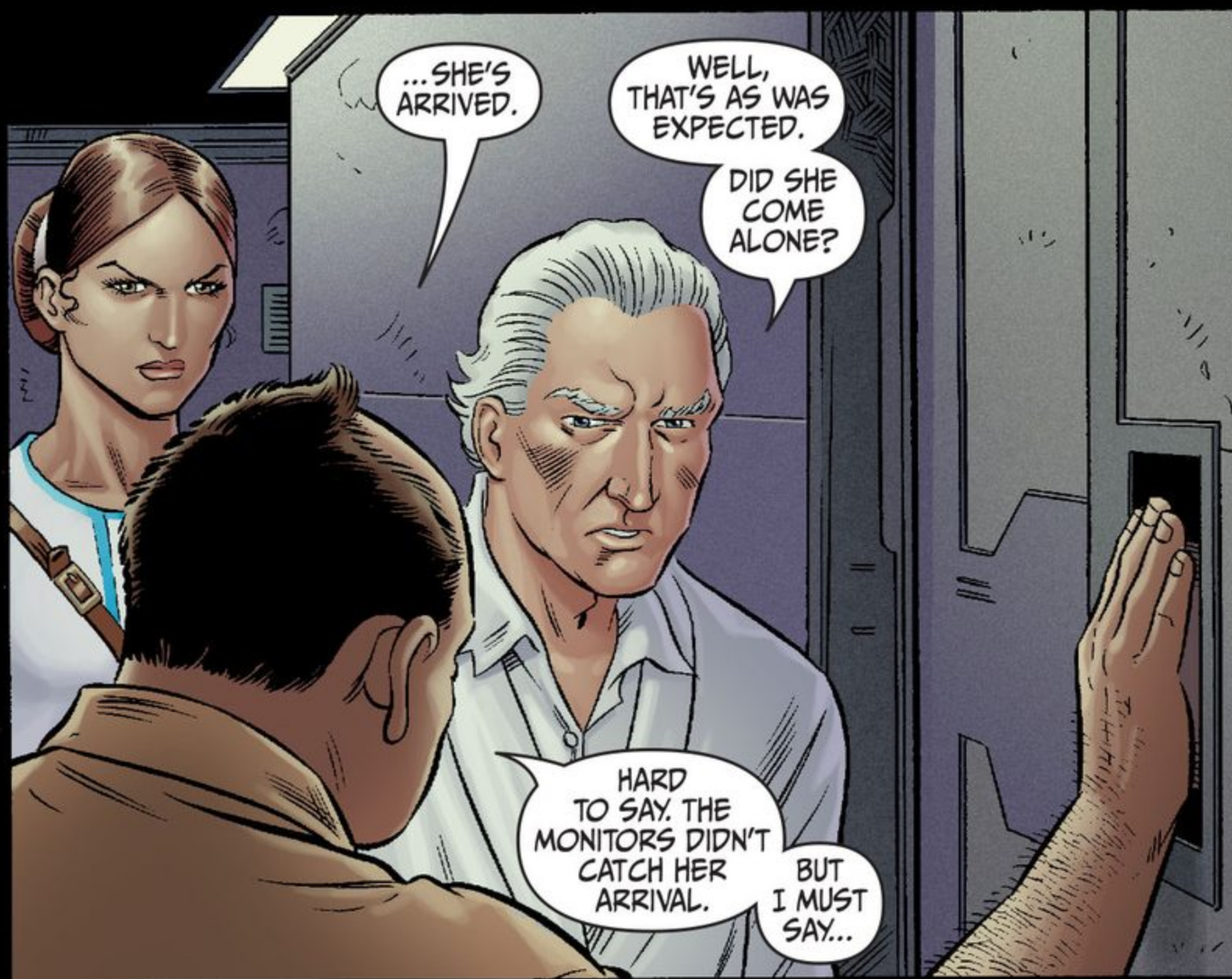
ASSUMING YOU DON'T MIND BEING A CASTRATI AFTERWARDS, OF COURSE.



WHAT THE HELL.
I'LL TRY ANYTHING ONCE.









WHERE ARE
THE **REST**,
SISTER?

THE **REST**.

I CAN
MAKE YOU
TELL ME.



WITH YOUR
LITTLE NOOSE,
DARLING?

THAT'S
USUALLY MY
JOB.



YOU'RE
STRONG.

BUT LET'S NOT
DELUDE OURSELVES
HERE, WITCH.



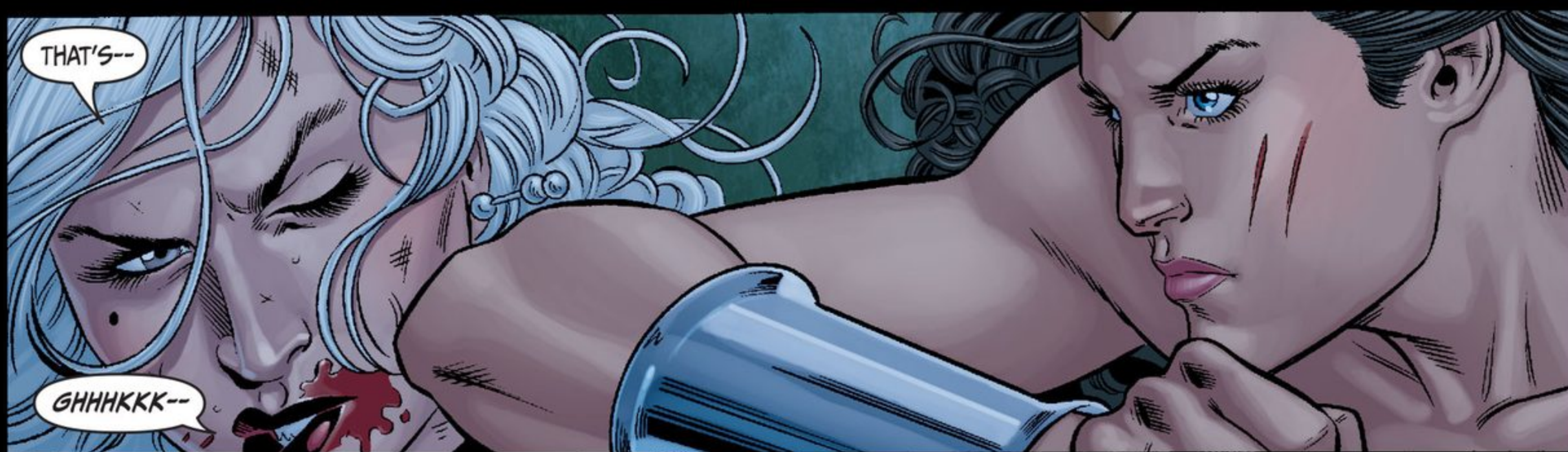
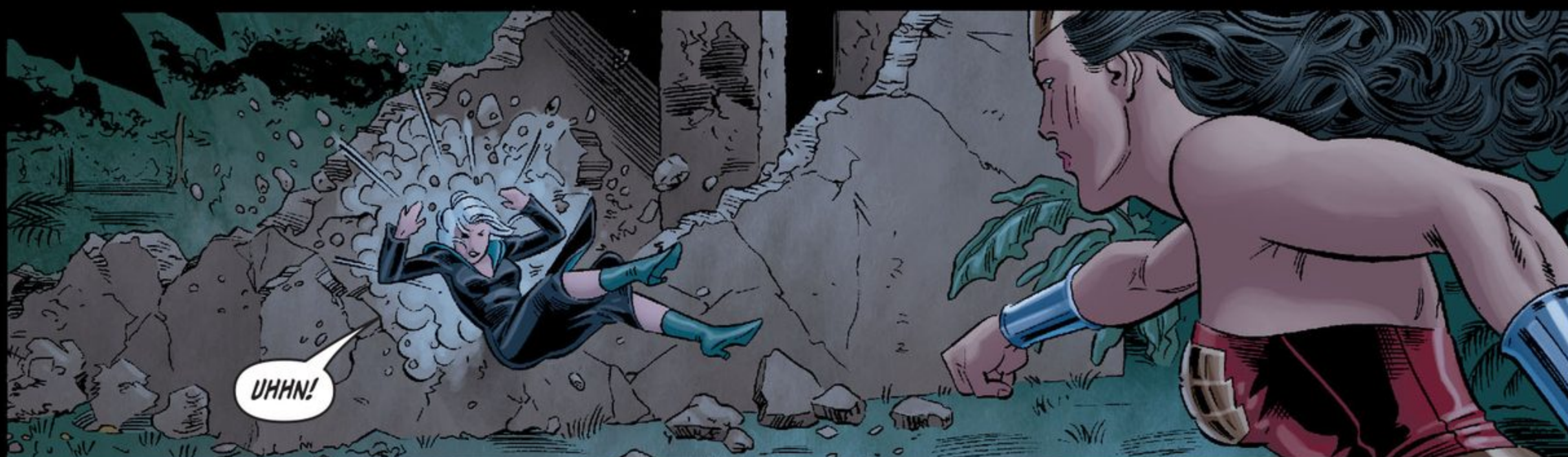
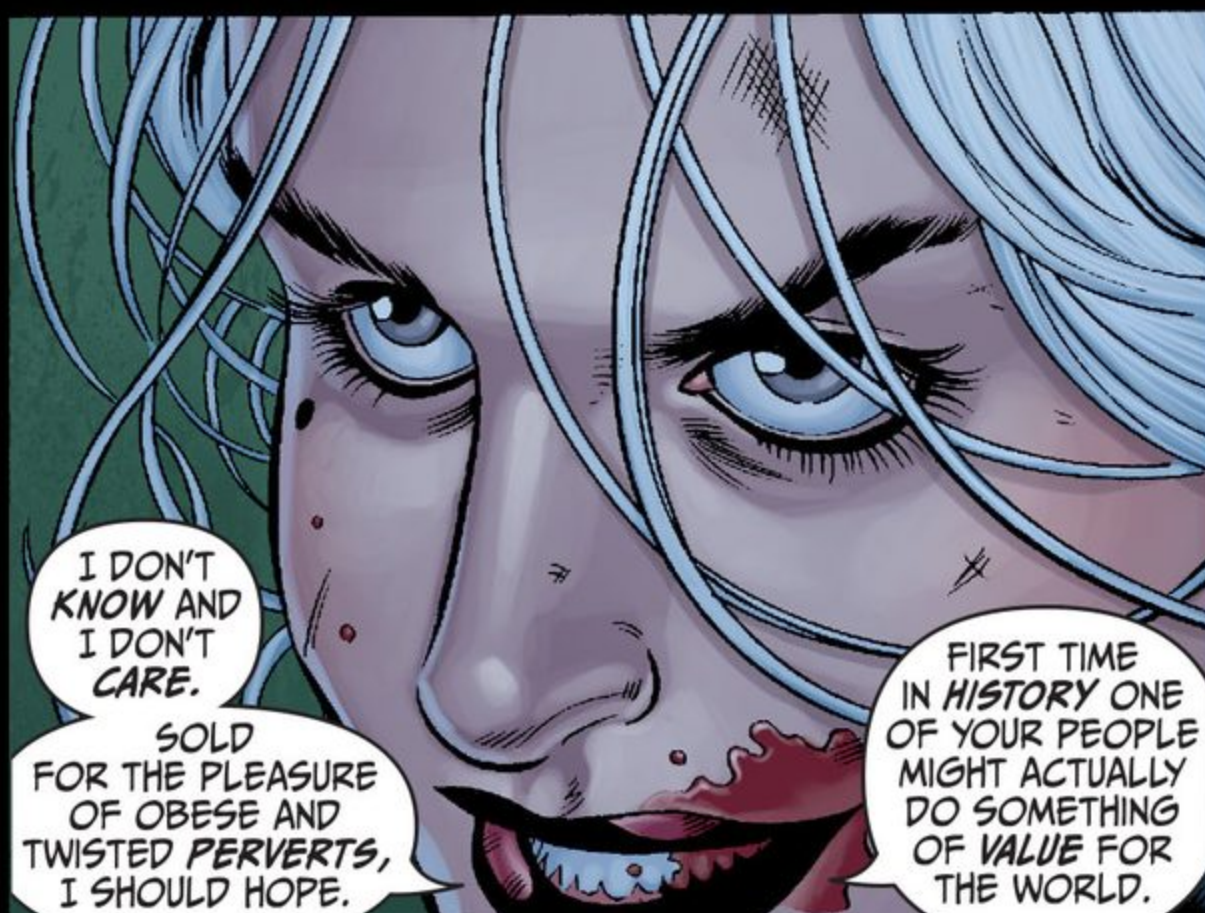
YOU'RE NOT
NEARLY IN MY
LEAGUE.

NO PUN
INTENDED.



NO...







I'LL BEAT IT
OUT OF YOU,
WITCH.

GKKLKK--



THE BEAST,
EMIL. GET IT
READY.

HURRY!



SHE IS HERE,
DARK LORD,
DESIRE OF MY
HEART.

YES,

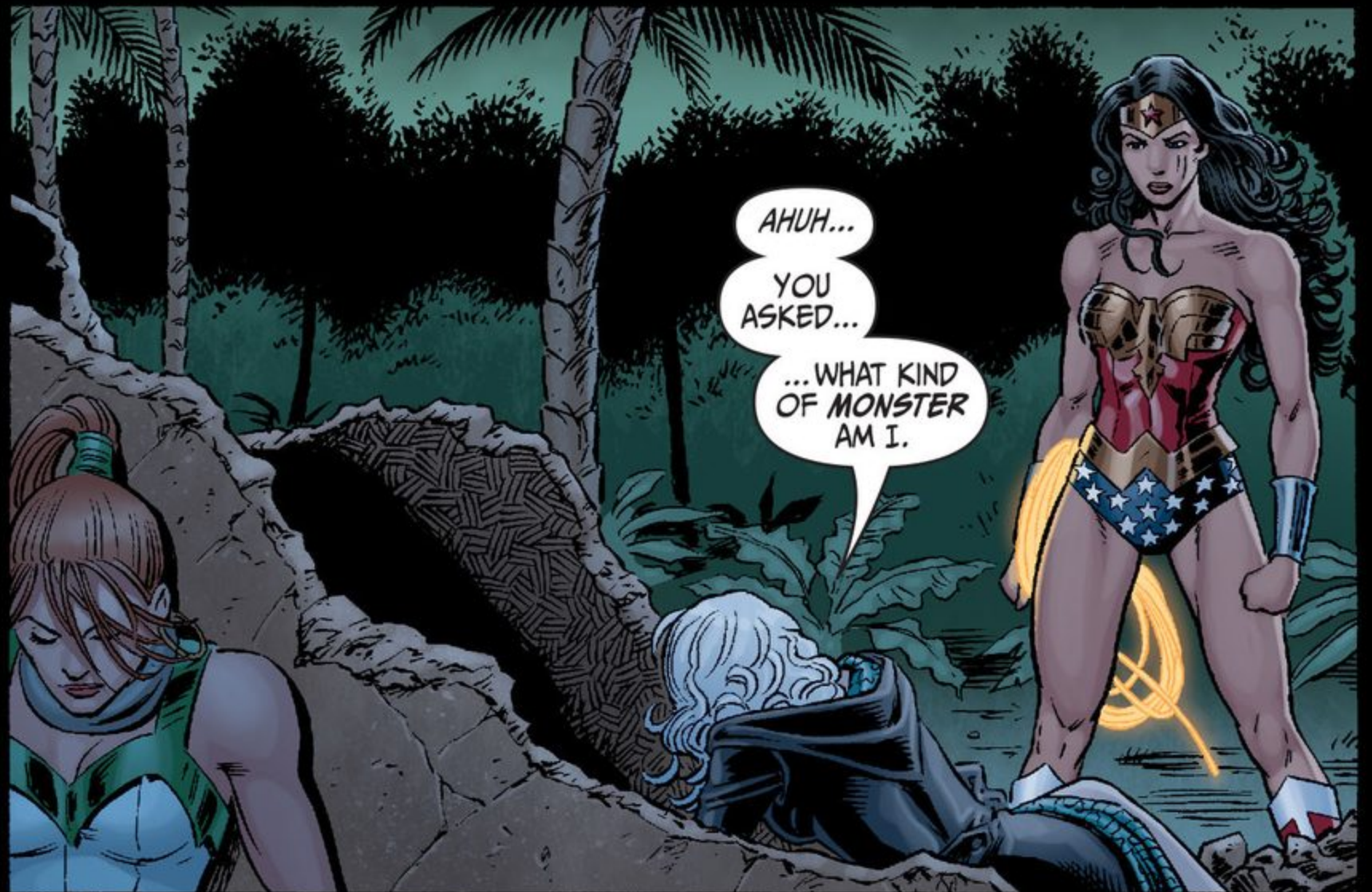
I SMELL
HER, EVEN
FROM HERE.



COVER
YOUR
EARS.

IF YOU
VALUE YOUR
LIFE AND
SANITY...

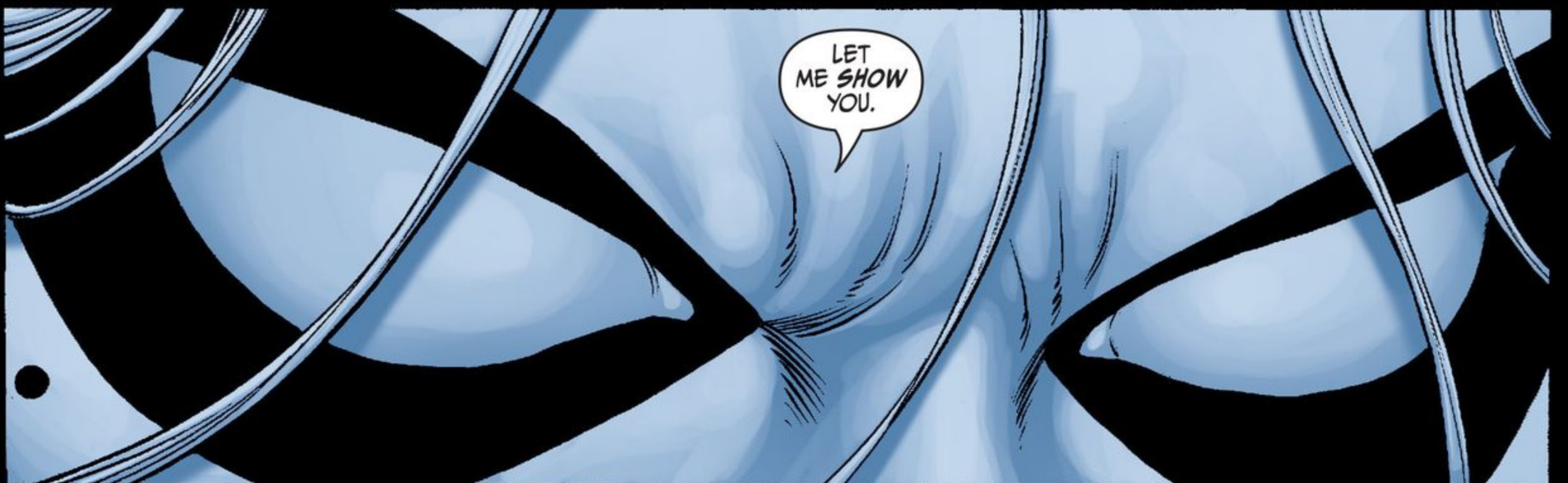
...COVER
YOUR EARS.



AHUH...

YOU
ASKED...

...WHAT KIND
OF MONSTER
AM I.



LET
ME SHOW
YOU.



GOOD LORD.
WHAT UNGODLY THING MAKES A NOISE LIKE THAT?

YOU'RE HEARING THE DEAD, BLAKE!



YOU'RE HEARING HER RELIVE HER OWN DECAPITATION.

GOD HELP EVERY ONE OF US!



HERA.

ST...

STOP THIS.



THE EXECUTIONER WAS DRUNK.

I PAID HIM WITH THE ONLY JEWELRY THEY LET ME KEEP. MOTHER'S NECKLACE.

HIS AX WAS...

...IMPRECISE.



THE FIRST
BLOW CRACKED
THE BONES IN
MY LEFT
SHOULDER.

THE WHITE
DRESS I WORE
SOAKED RED
WITH MY
BLOOD.

WITH EACH
MISSED KILLING
STROKE, THE
CROWD CHEERED
AND LAUGHED.
FOR THEM IT
WAS GOOD
SPORT.

DO YOU
FEEL IT,
TOO?



FOR ME,
IT WAS A PAIN
AND TERROR
SO DEEP
THAT I LOST
EVERYTHING
I WAS.

TO KNEEL,
BOUND AT THE HANDS,
IN MY BEFOULED
UNDERGARMENTS,
AND KNOW THE
BUTCHER WASN'T
FINISHED.

THERE WERE
TWO MORE MISSES.
HE STOPPED AFTER THE THIRD
BLOW, FOR A DRINK OF WATER,
AND TO PANTOMIME HIS FATIGUE
FOR THE CROWD. SWINGING THE
AXE WAS TIRING, YOU SEE. THAT
WAS HIS EXCUSE.



THE CHILD I
WAS BORN, FOR
ALL THE THINGS
SHE HAD
DONE...

...SHE
LEFT ME AS
I WAITED TO
DIE.

AND I
FOUND THE
BANSHEE.



AND NOW
YOU KNOW,
PRINCESS.

WHAT THAT
MOMENT IS LIKE,
WHEN SOMEONE
MAKES YOU LOWER
THAN THE LOWEST
ANIMAL.





OH.
THE AXEMAN
IS COMING
FOR ME AT
LAST.



SHE'S
FAINTED.

THEY'RE
COMING.

LOTS OF
THEM.



UHHH.

TAKE ARTEMIS
AND JEANNETTE,
SCANDAL. GET BACK
TO THE BUNKER AND
GET YOUR GEAR. WE
CAN STALL THEM A
FEW MINUTES.

THEN GET
THE HELL OFF
THIS ISLAND.
THAT'S YOUR ONLY
WARNING.

GO.

HEY, THE
REDHEAD'S NOT
DEAD.

WHAT
OF THE
PRINCESS,
THOMAS?



WE HAVE TO GIVE
THEM SOMETHING,
SCANDAL.

TO MAKE THEM
FORGET ABOUT
WHAT YOU'VE
DONE.

GO.





I KNEW
HIRING THESE
SWINE WAS A
MISTAKE.

THEY ARE NOT
PROFESSIONAL.

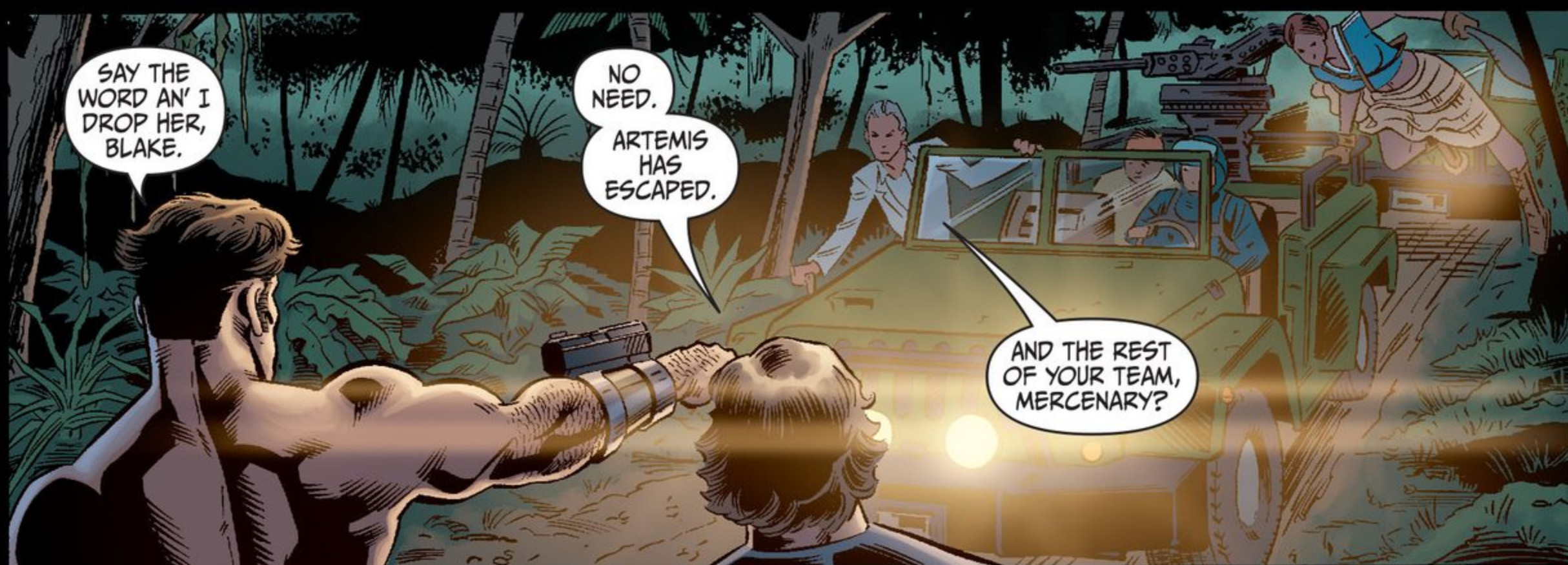
THEY LACK A
PROFESSIONAL'S
DETACHMENT.

THEY ARE MERELY
WEAPONS, EMIL. AND
THEY ARE TOO DIM-
WITTED TO KNOW WHAT
I HAVE PLANNED
FOR THEM.



HOLD UP,
SMYTH.

THE UGLY
PART'S
DONE.



SAY THE
WORD AN' I
DROP HER,
BLAKE.

NO
NEED.
ARTEMIS
HAS
ESCAPED.

AND THE REST
OF YOUR TEAM,
MERCENARY?



GONE.
GONE FOR
GOOD.

DON'T
PUSH IT,
SMYTH.

WE
BROUGHT YOU A
CONSOLATION
GIFT.

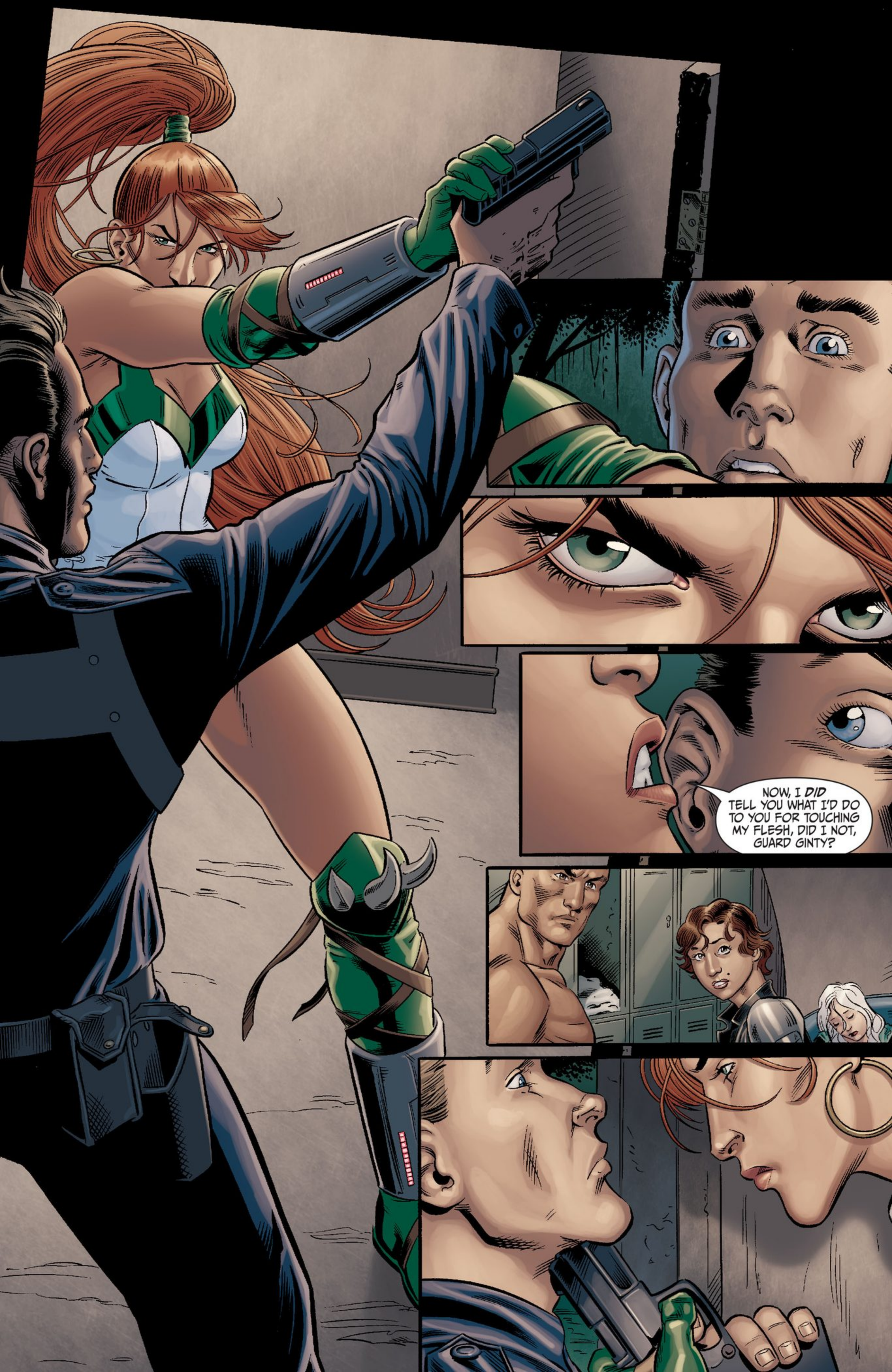


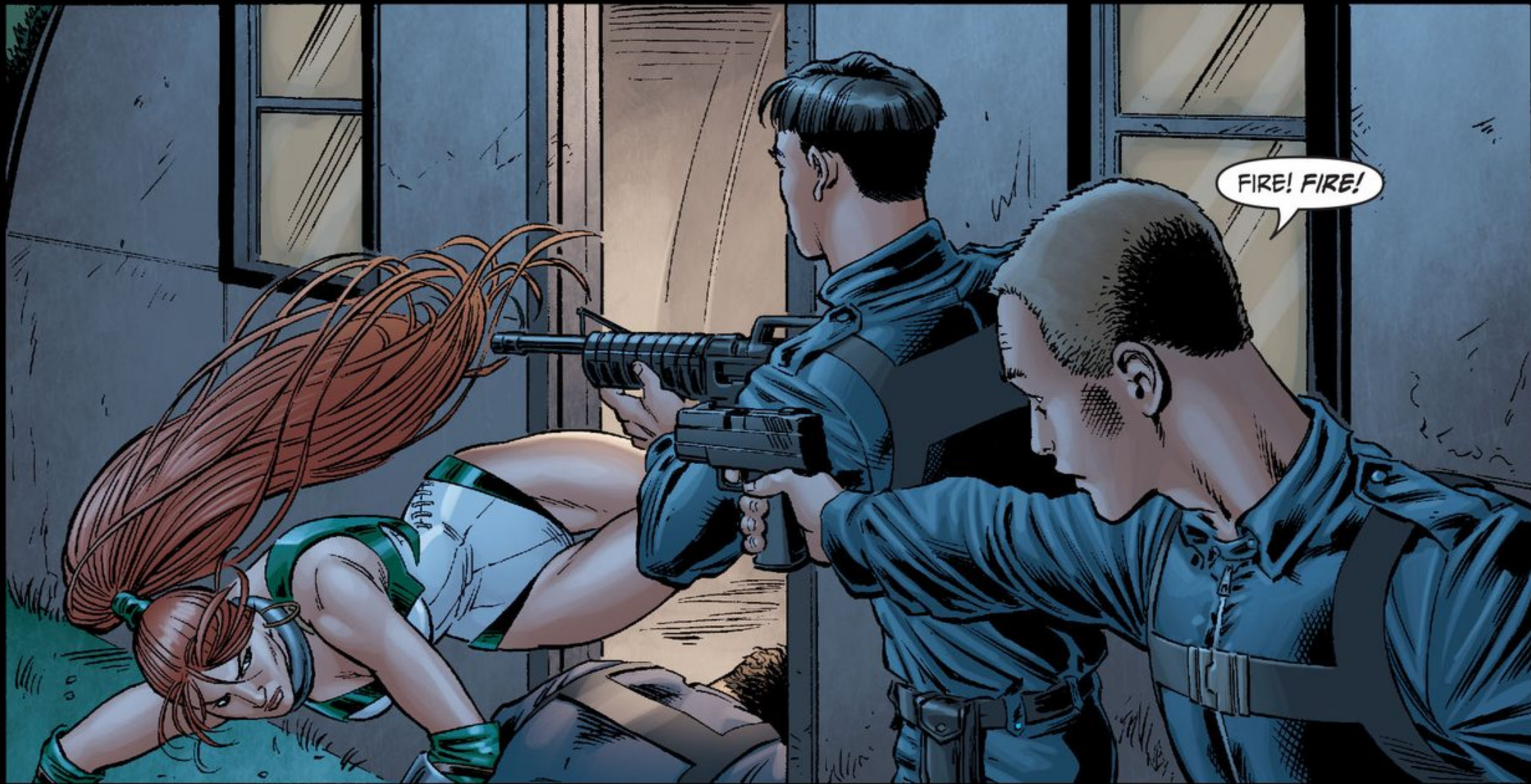
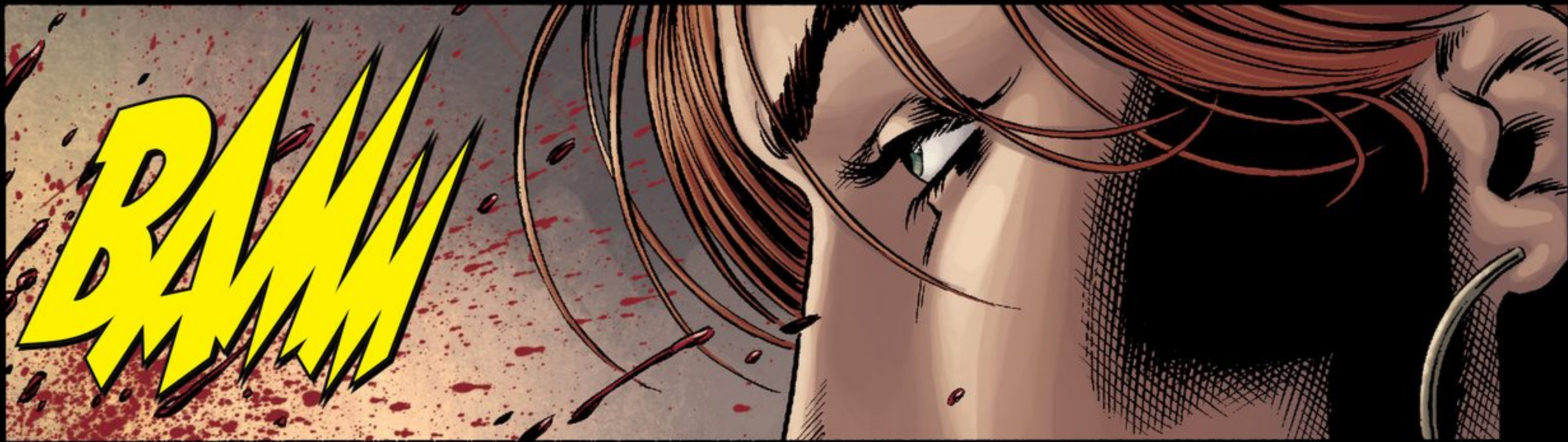
OH, IT'S SANTA
RAGDOLL, BRINGING
STOCKING STUFFERS
FOR THOSE
HETEROSEXUALS
WITH **ENORMOUS**
FEET.

WHO
ORDERED A
BUSTY
MEATLOAF?

I CAN'T
BELIEVE I GET
PAID FOR THIS
KIND OF
THING!







NO. NO!
I'M SORRY!
I SURRENDER!
I SURRENDER!

DEAR LITTLE MAN,
THIS IS PRISON,
NOT WAR.
WOULD YOU
LIKE, PERHAPS,
TO REGISTER A
COMPLAINT?





YOU'VE EARNED
THIS TRUST, GENTLEMEN.
PLEASE, LET ME REPAY
YOUR SERVICE.

"LASCIATE OGNE
SPERANZA, VOI
CH'INTRATE."



WHAT'S UPSTAIRS,
THE PRISON, THAT WILL
BE A MIRACLE. A
SALVATION.

BUT WHAT WE HAVE
DOWN HERE...

...THAT IS A
REVELATION.

IS IT
FOOD? I
HOPE IT'S
FOOD.

IS IT
FOOD?



NINTH CIRCLE,
OUR BOTTOM FLOOR.
WHERE THE MALICIOUS
SINNERS WILL STAY.

AND
THERE WILL BE
A CONSUMPTION,
MR. MERKEL.
YES.



VIRTUOUS
TREATS WILL BE
DEVOURED.

I'M SURE
OF IT.

I KNOW
WHAT THIS IS,
SMYTH.

I USETA HAVE
TO READ ONCE
IN A WHILE, IN
BETWEEN
BULLETS.



IT'S THE
INFERNO. FROM
THAT POEM THING
THAT DANTE GUY
WROTE.

YOU'RE
REMAKING THE
NINE LEVELS
OF HELL, IS
THAT IT?



VERY GOOD, MISTER
LAWTON.

PEOPLE NEED
SOMETHING TO FEAR,
TO STAY VIRTUOUS
AND PIOUS, AND OUR
OWN GOD REMAINS
STUBBORNLY
UN-WRATHFUL.

DO YOU
REMEMBER WHAT WAS
KEPT SHACKLED AT THE
END OF HIS JOURNEY,
GOOD SIR?



THE *DEVIL*,
MR. LAWTON.
PLEASE MEET
MY FRIEND,
THE *DEVIL*.

KNEW I
SMELLED HER.
THE AMAZON.

AND I
AM SO
HUNGRY.

NEXT: FIT FOR A KING



GAIL
SIMONE
NICOLA
SCOTT
DOUG
HAZLEWOOD

SECRET SIX

13
NOV '09



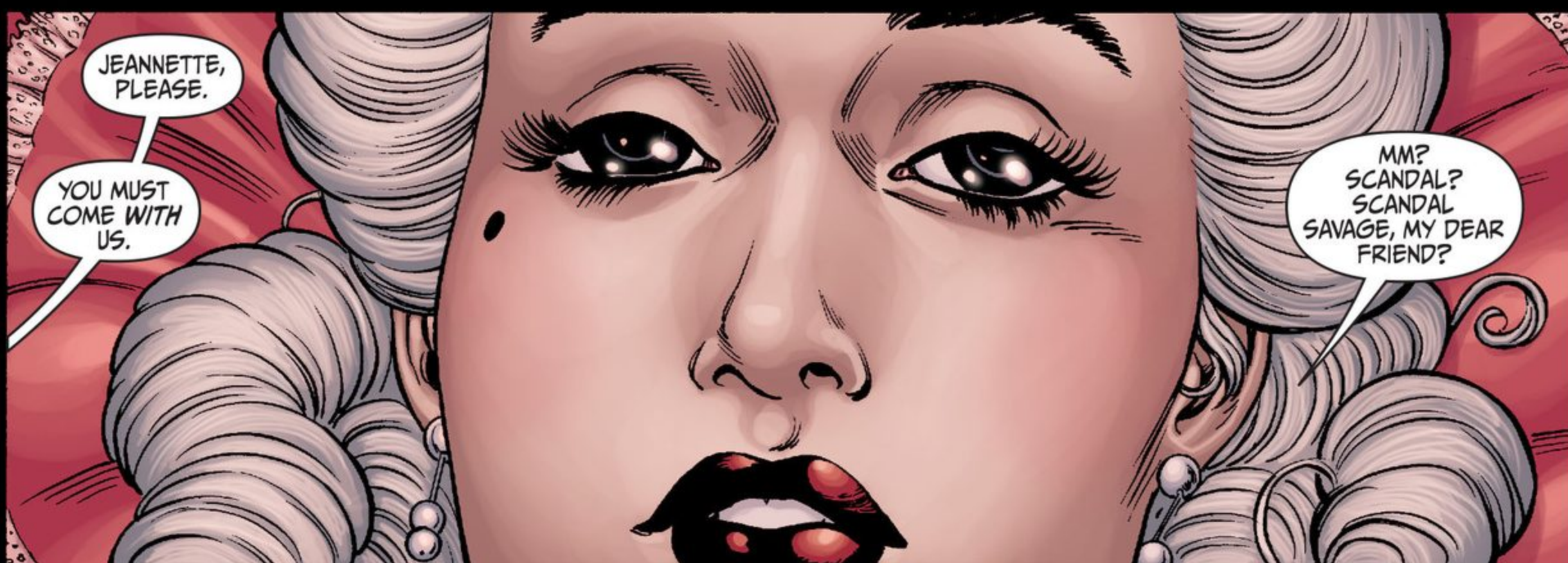
dccomics.com





JEANNETTE.

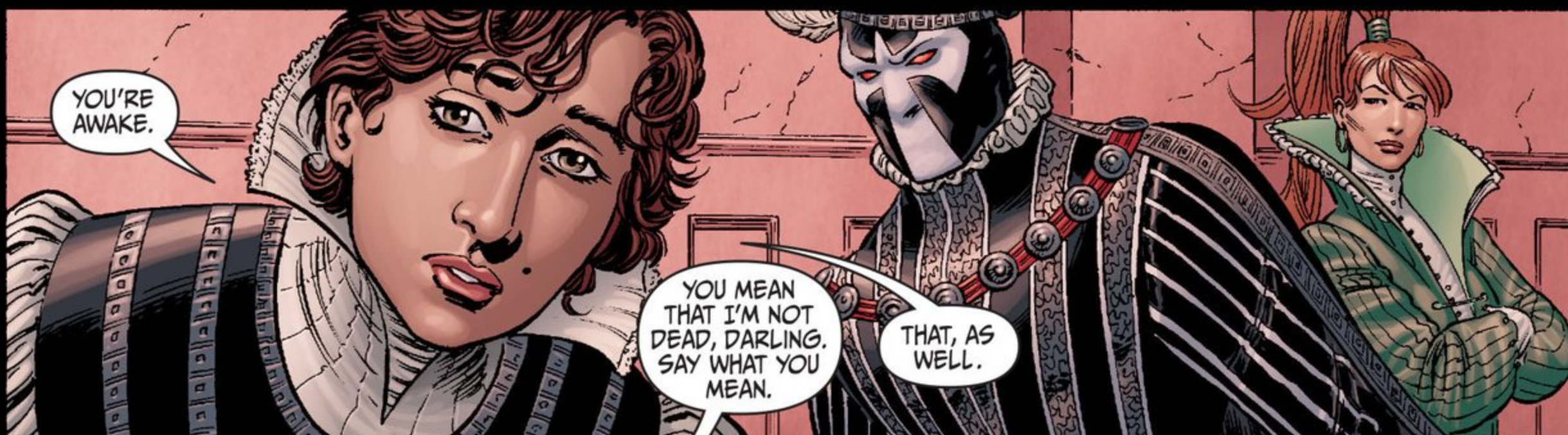
JEANNETTE.



JEANNETTE, PLEASE.

YOU MUST COME WITH US.

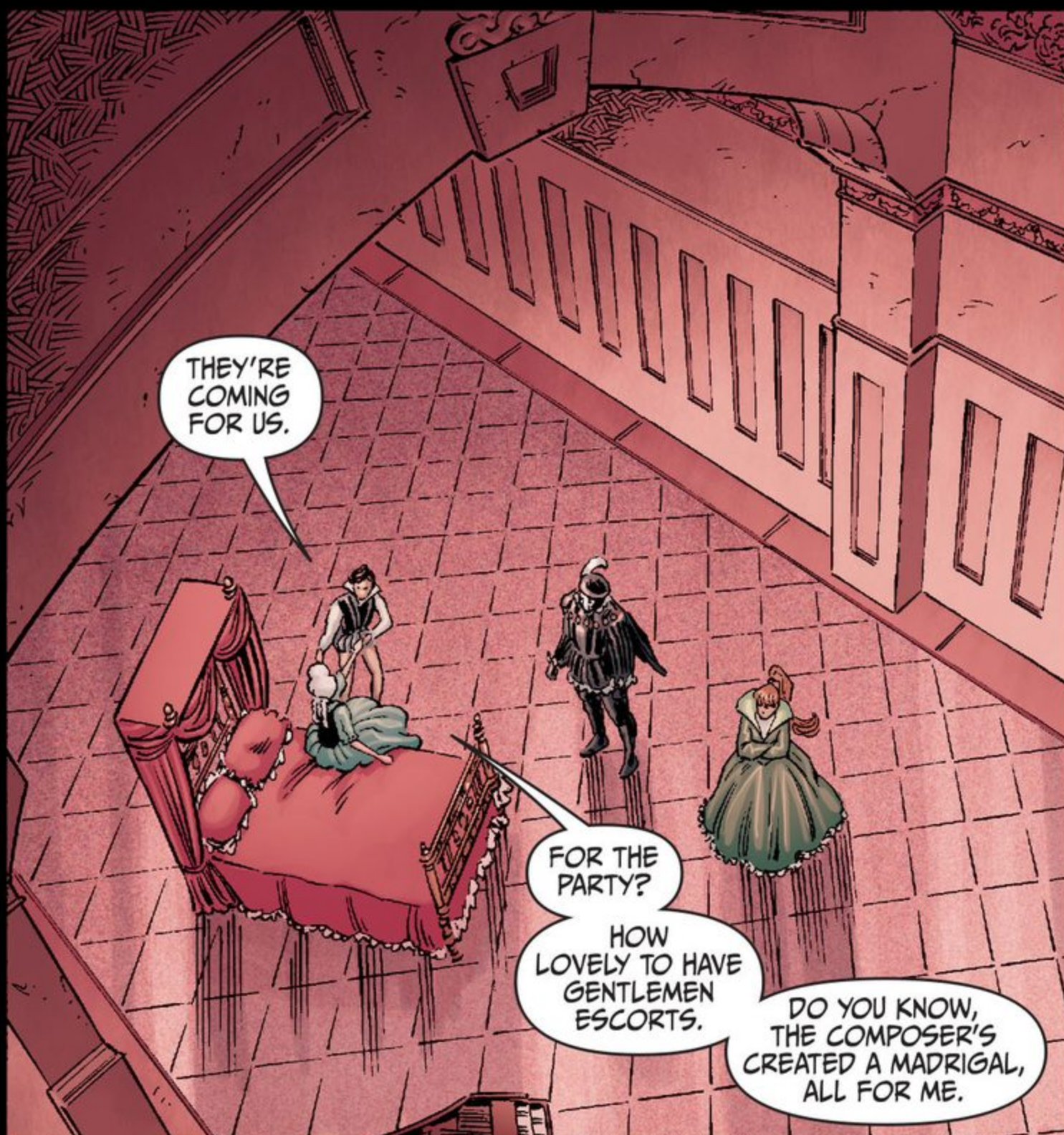
MM? SCANDAL? SCANDAL SAVAGE, MY DEAR FRIEND?



YOU'RE AWAKE.

YOU MEAN THAT I'M NOT DEAD, DARLING. SAY WHAT YOU MEAN.

THAT, AS WELL.



THEY'RE COMING FOR US.

FOR THE PARTY?

HOW LOVELY TO HAVE GENTLEMEN ESCORTS.

DO YOU KNOW, THE COMPOSER'S CREATED A MADRIGAL, ALL FOR ME.

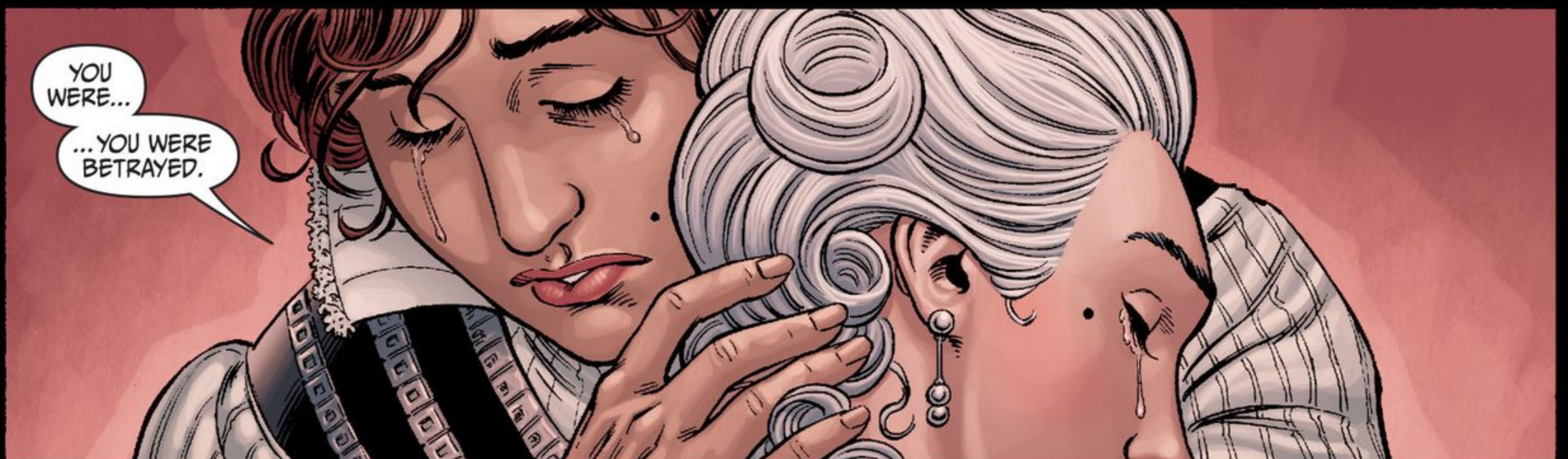
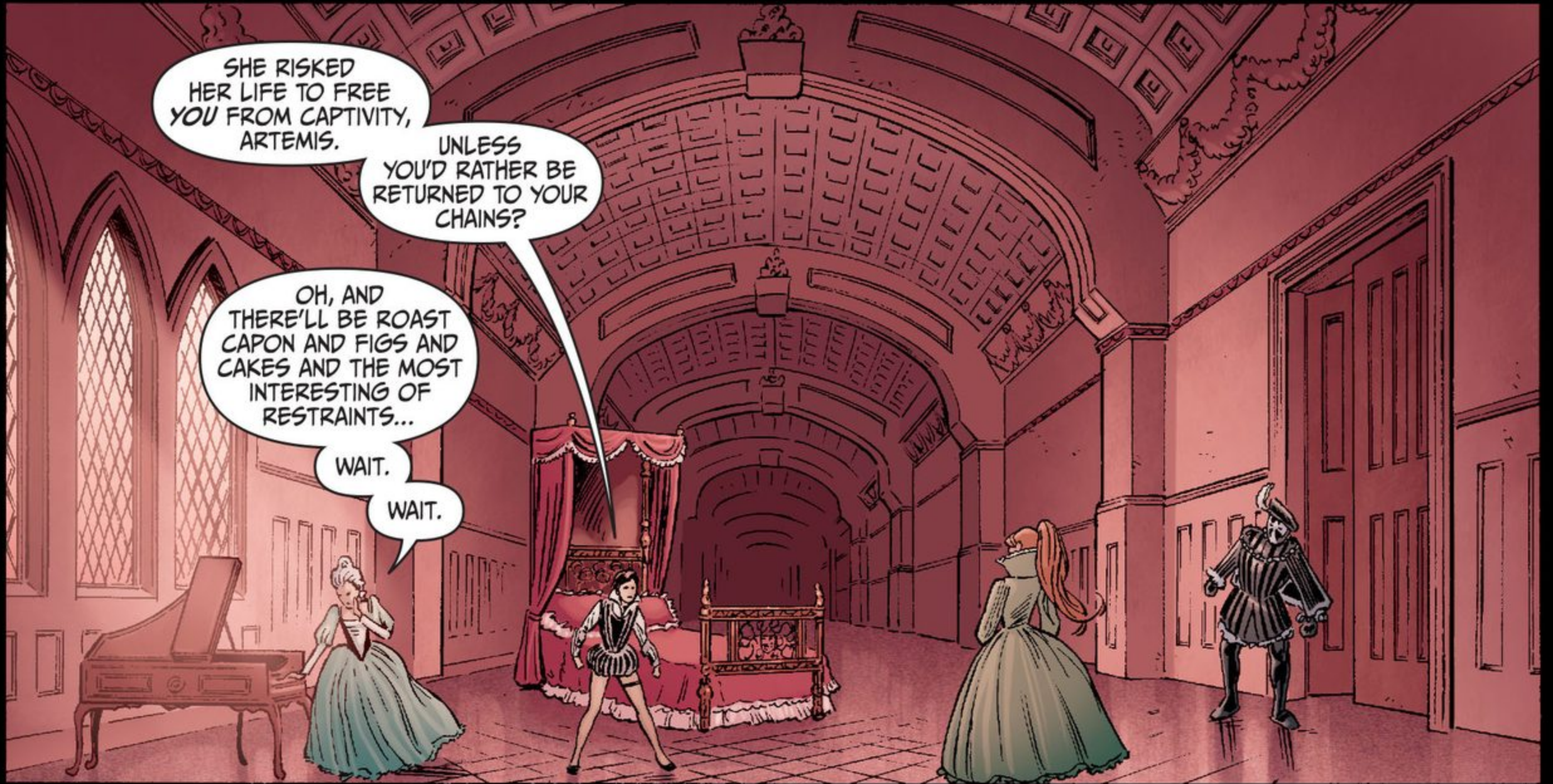


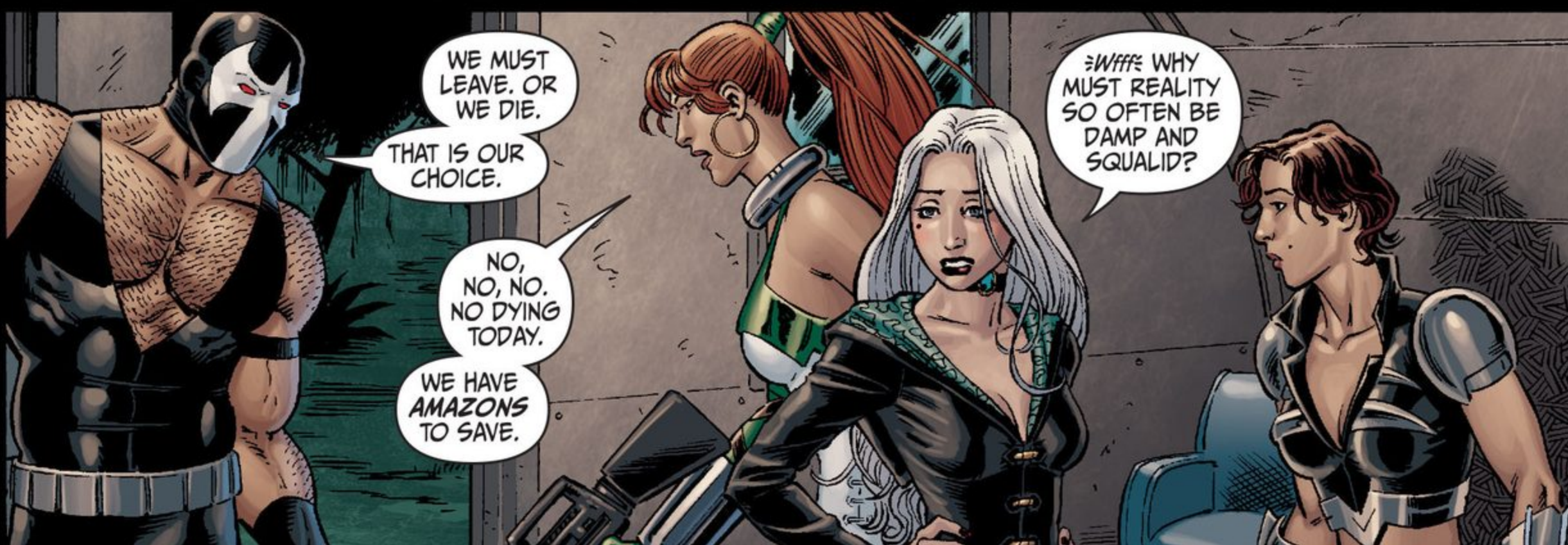
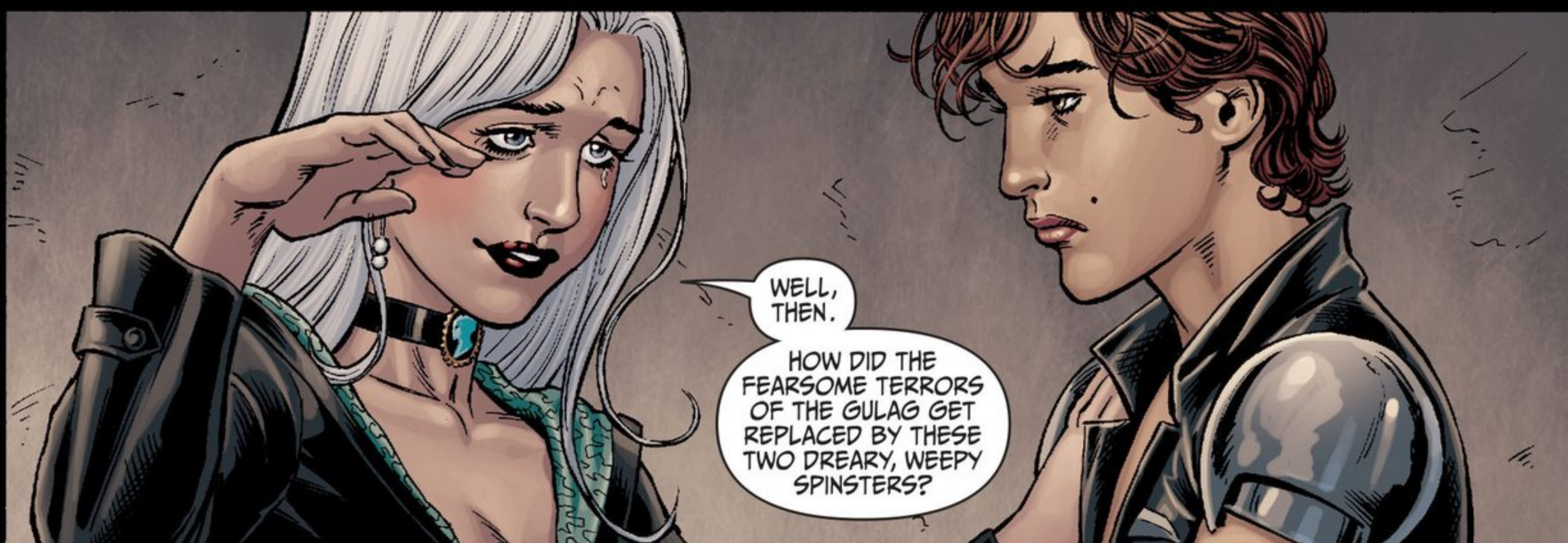
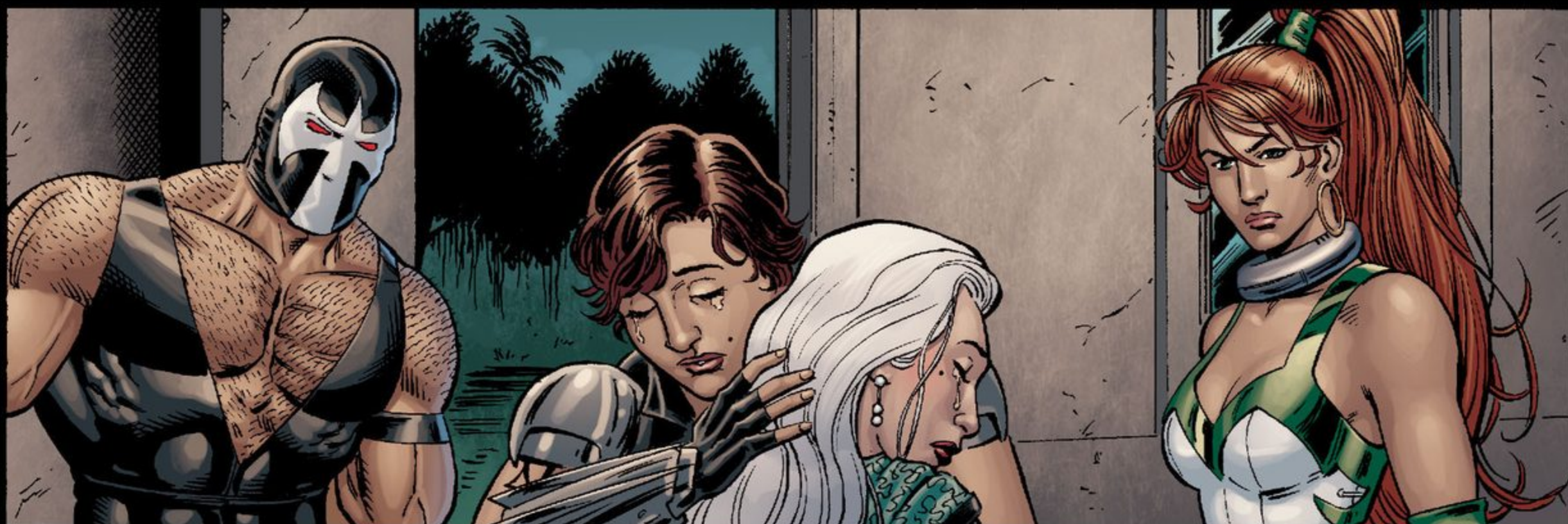
NOT A MADRIGAL, JEANNETTE.

A REQUIEM.

MUSIC FOR THE DEAD IN REPOSE?

NONSENSE. IT'S MY BIRTHDAY!





DEPTHS

PART FOUR: FIT FOR A KING

MY GOOD
MERCENARIES,
MEET OUR DEVIL,
OUR BEAST OF
ANTIQUITY.

GRENDL
IS HIS NAME.

CHARMED,
I'M SURE.

HMMMM.

DO YOU
THINK THESE
THINGS WOULD
FIT ME?

GAIL SIMONE • WRITER

NICOLA SCOTT
W/CARLOS RODRIGUEZ •
PENCILLERS

DOUG HAZLEWOOD
W/RODNEY RAMOS &
CARLOS RODRIGUEZ •
INKERS

JASON WRIGHT • COLORIST
TRAVIS LANHAM • LETTERER
SEAN RYAN • EDITOR
DANIEL LUVISI • COVER



YOU KNOW
HOW IMPORTANT
THIS IS.

EVEN IF
YOU DON'T AGREE
WITH OUR GRAND PLAN,
HOPEFULLY YOU WON'T
TEST OUR *WILL* IN THIS
ENDEAVOR. SO I ASK
YOU TWO QUESTIONS,
AND I NEED TWO SIMPLE,
HONEST ANSWERS,
PLEASE.



CAN YOU
FIND AND KILL YOUR
FORMER TEAMMATES,
THE ONES WHO BETRAYED
YOUR ORGANIZATION
AND RUINED YOUR
REPUTATIONS?



JEANNETTE...
SHE'S A
PROBLEM.

BUT
YEAH.

WE COULD
HUNT THEM.
KILLING, ONLY IF
NECESSARY.



FINE.
EXEMPLARY.

NOW MY
MORE IMPORTANT
QUESTION.

WILL
YOU?



I SAY
WE VOTE.

THEY
LEFT *US*.

YEAH.
THAT THEY
DID.

'DOLL,
YOU CHIMIN' IN
ON THIS?



WHAT?
WAIT, SORRY.
WASN'T LISTENING.

WHAT
ARE WE
DISCUSSING
AGAIN?



YEAH. ALL
RIGHT.

WE'LL
DO IT.

HEY!
I WONDER,
COULD I GET
IN THAT
BUSTIER?

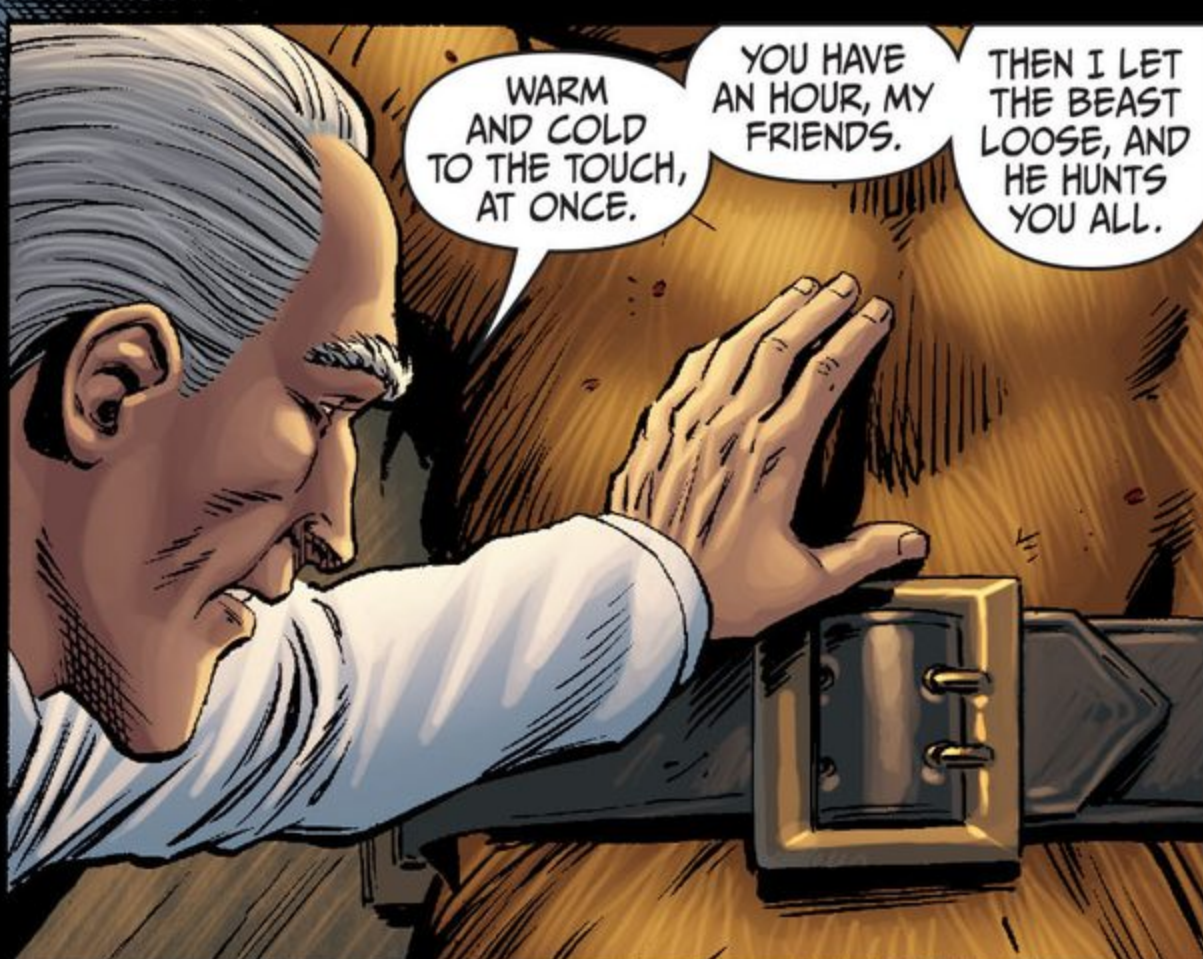
DUNNO.
LOTSA
PEOPLE
TRIED.



OUTSTANDING.
AND NOW I KNOW
WHO AND WHAT I'M
DEALING WITH.

EXEMPLARY.

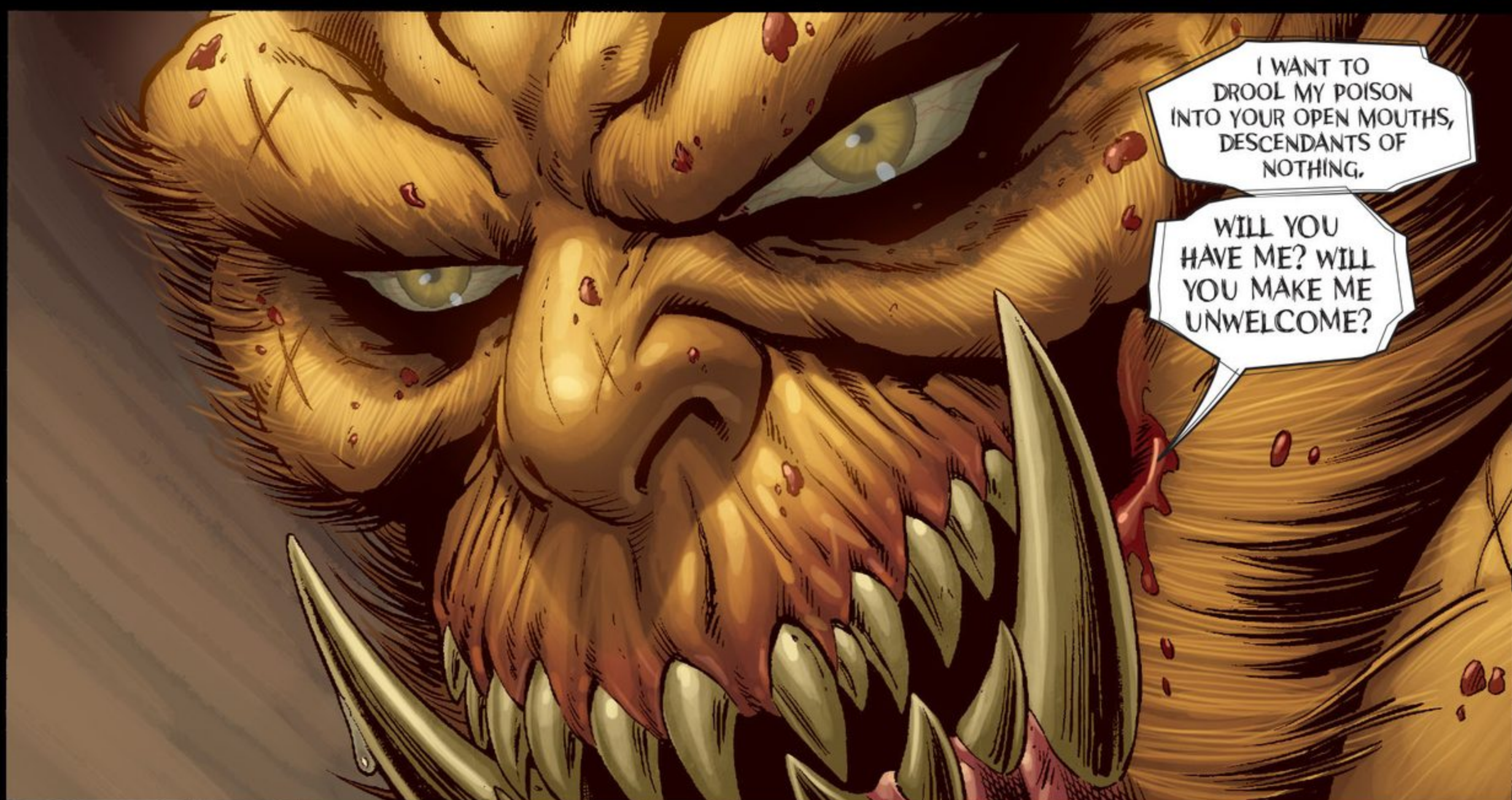
YOU
SAID THAT
ALREADY.



WARM
AND COLD
TO THE TOUCH,
AT ONCE.

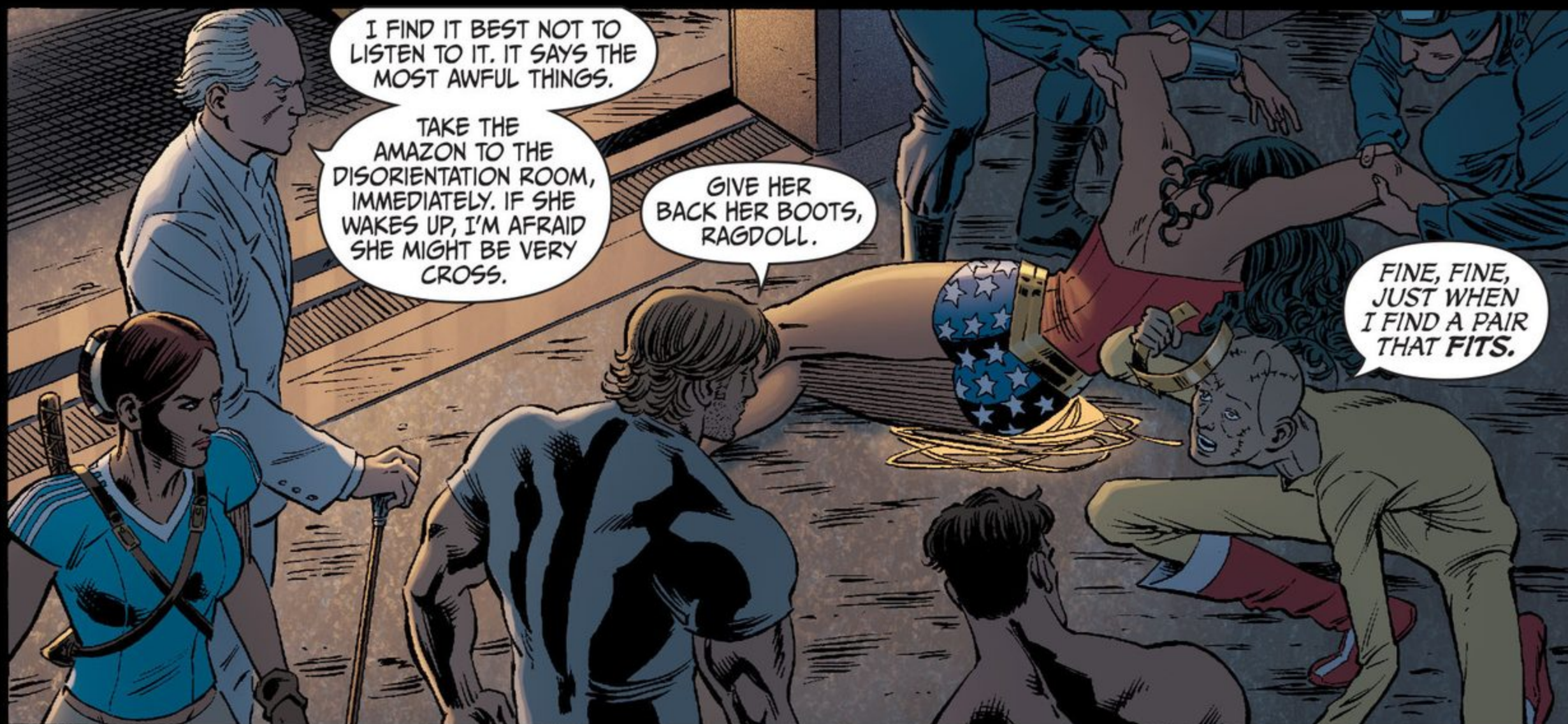
YOU HAVE
AN HOUR, MY
FRIENDS.

THEN I LET
THE BEAST
LOOSE, AND
HE HUNTS
YOU ALL.



I WANT TO
DROOL MY POISON
INTO YOUR OPEN MOUTHS,
DESCENDANTS OF
NOTHING.

WILL YOU
HAVE ME? WILL
YOU MAKE ME
UNWELCOME?



I FIND IT BEST NOT TO LISTEN TO IT. IT SAYS THE MOST AWFUL THINGS.

TAKE THE AMAZON TO THE DISORIENTATION ROOM, IMMEDIATELY. IF SHE WAKES UP, I'M AFRAID SHE MIGHT BE VERY CROSS.

GIVE HER BACK HER BOOTS, RAGDOLL.

FINE, FINE, JUST WHEN I FIND A PAIR THAT FITS.



HUMAN.

I WANT THAT SCRUMPTIOUS.

BREAK OUR PACT AND YOU PROVIDE THE SWEETBREDS.



IT IS IMPORTANT YOU UNDERSTAND THIS.

YOU CALLED TO ME, AND I KNOW YOUR NAME.

UNDERSTOOD. YOU WILL HAVE HER.

COME, MY NEW FRIENDS. YOU HAVE ESCAPEES TO ADDRESS.



A LAST LOOK AT MY GLORIOUS FLESH, HUMAN? DO MY WOUNDS AND LESIONS SPEED YOUR HEART?

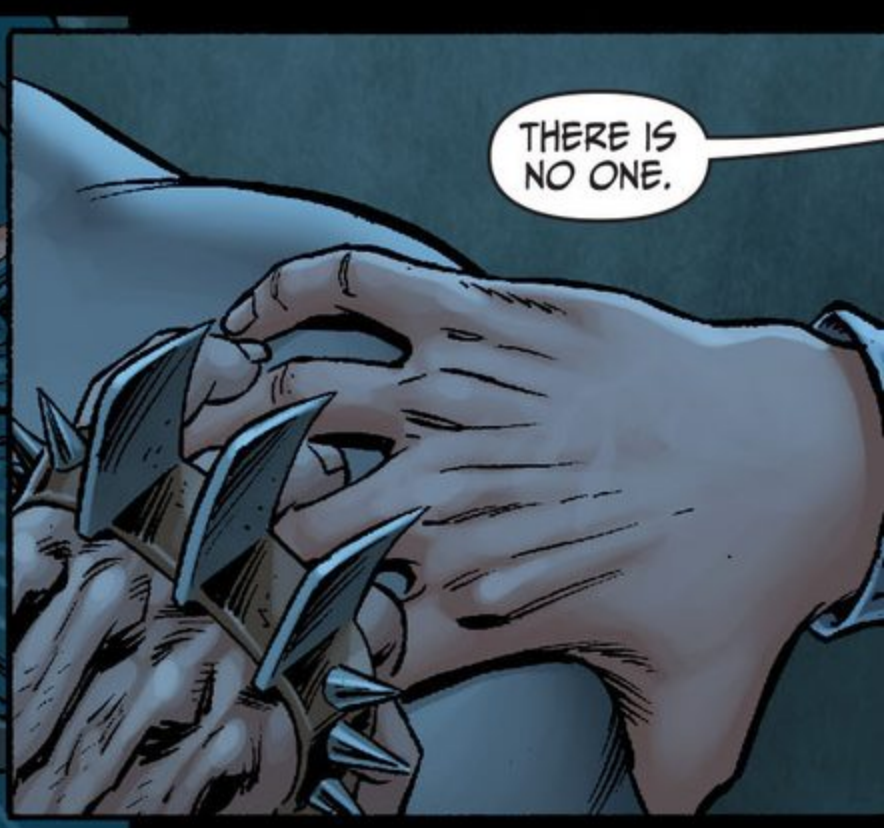
AVERT YOUR GAZE, PRETTY, GIRLISH COCKROACH.

OR I WILL FIND YOUR HEIRS AND KNOW THEM.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?



AH! WHAT?





RANDALL, I TOLD YOU BEFORE. I'M **SEEING** SOMEONE. TOMMY SAYS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO TALK TO ME, EITHER. YOU WANT ME TO YELL FOR TOMMY?

'CAUSE I SO WILL.



I JUST WANT TO TALK, LIANA.

YOU'VE BEEN VERY CURT WITH ME. AND I'VE SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY ON YOU.

YOU WANT IT BACK, BIG GUY? SAY THE WORD.

I'M NOT WHAT YOU THINK.



REALLY?

WHAT IF I THINK YOU'RE A TEASE?

WHAT IF I THINK YOU'RE TRASH, LIANA?

STILL SO QUICK TO DENY?

THIS GUY BUGGIN' YOU AGAIN, LIANA?



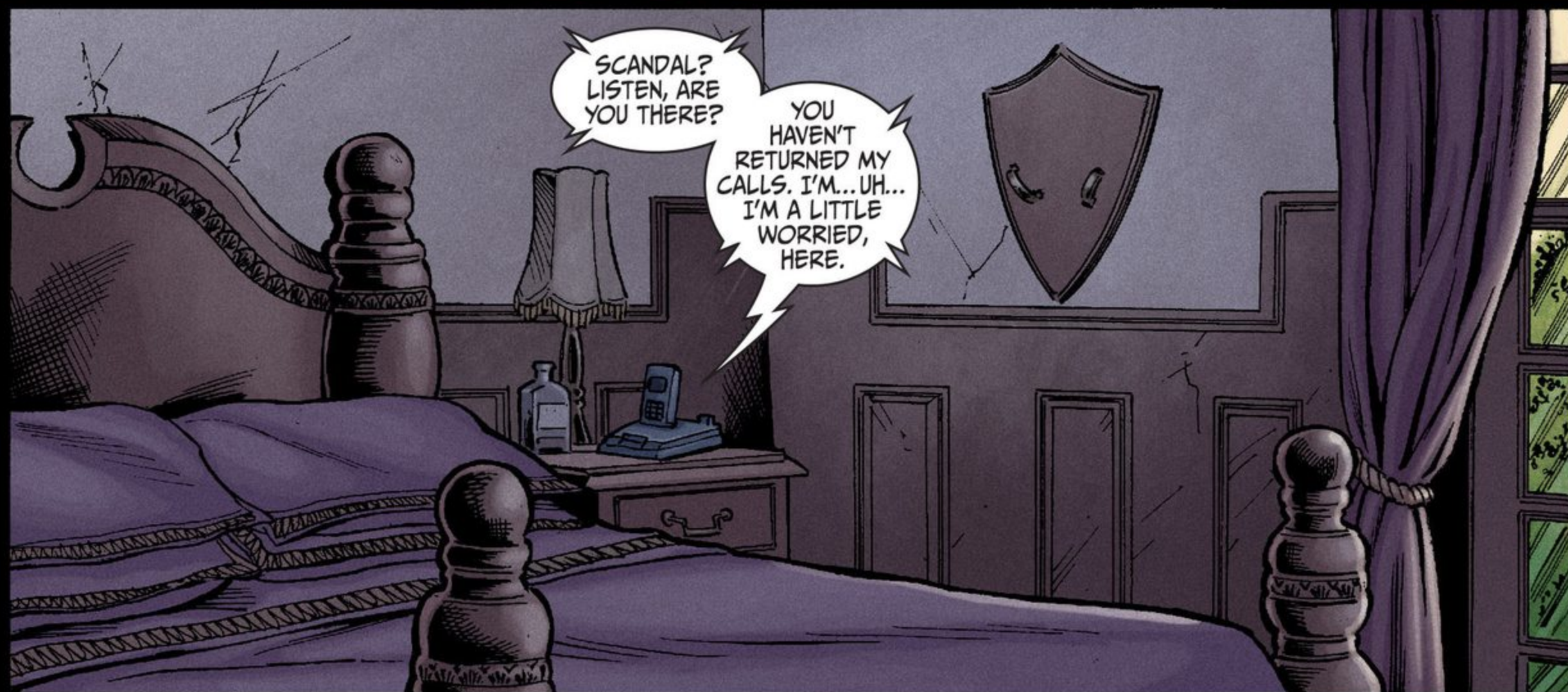
HE...

YEAH, TOMMY. HE'S BUGGING ME.

GOT IT, SWEETIE. C'MON, ROMEO. LET'S FIND YOU A NICE **COYOTE**.

I KNOW WHAT YOU NEED, LIANA. I KNOW.







"I JUST WANNA
KNOW... WANNA
KNOW WHERE
YOU ARE."

THEY'RE
HEADING TOWARDS...
WHY IN THE HELL?

THEY'RE
HEADING TO THE MAIN
COMPLEX!

WE'LL CLOSE
OFF THE WARD AND SHUT
'EM DOWN! MOVE!



HEY. HEY.
THERE ARE
ONLY FOUR
OF 'EM.

YOU
HAVE YOUR
ORDERS.



THOSE
ORDERS ARE
NO LONGER
VALID.

THIRTY SECONDS,
GENTLEMEN.



THIRTY
SECONDS
TO WHAT,
TRAITOR?



THIRTY
SECONDS TO
LIVE, GUARD
OF SLAVES.

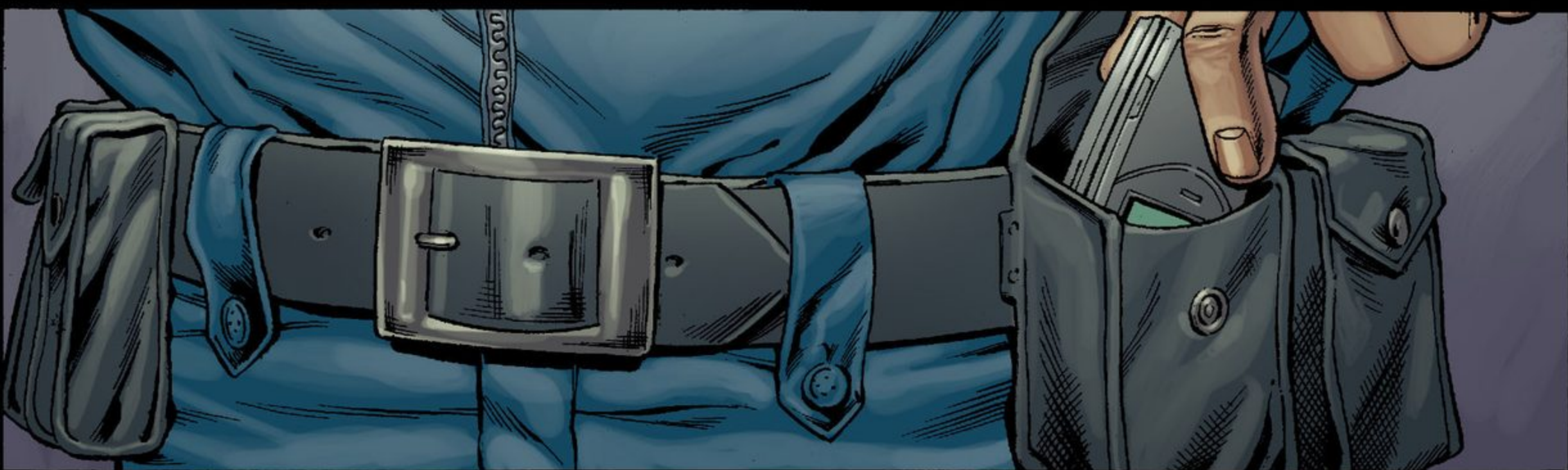
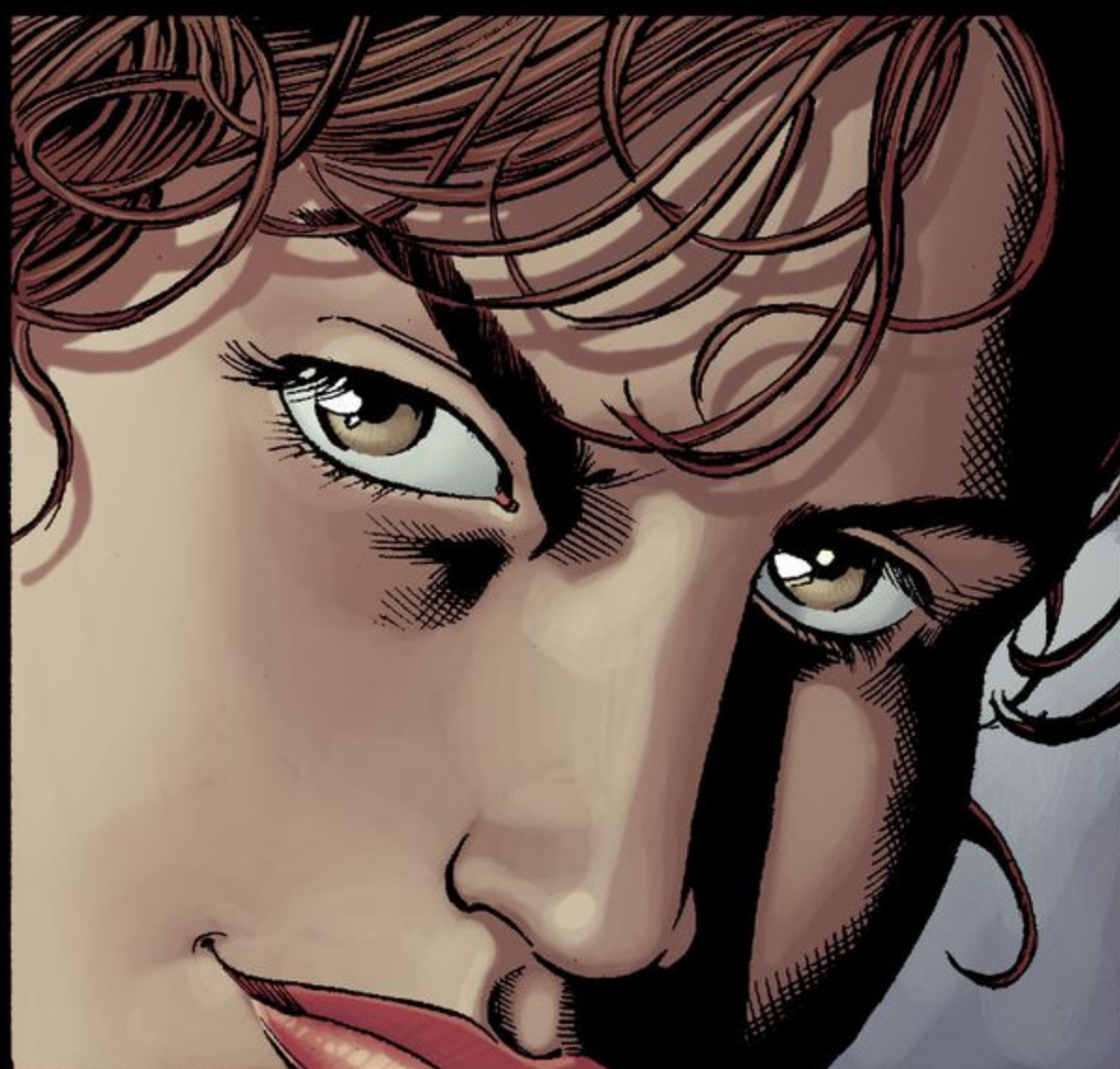
ENOUGH
TIME TO CALL
A LOVED ONE,
OR TO PRAY,
PERHAPS.

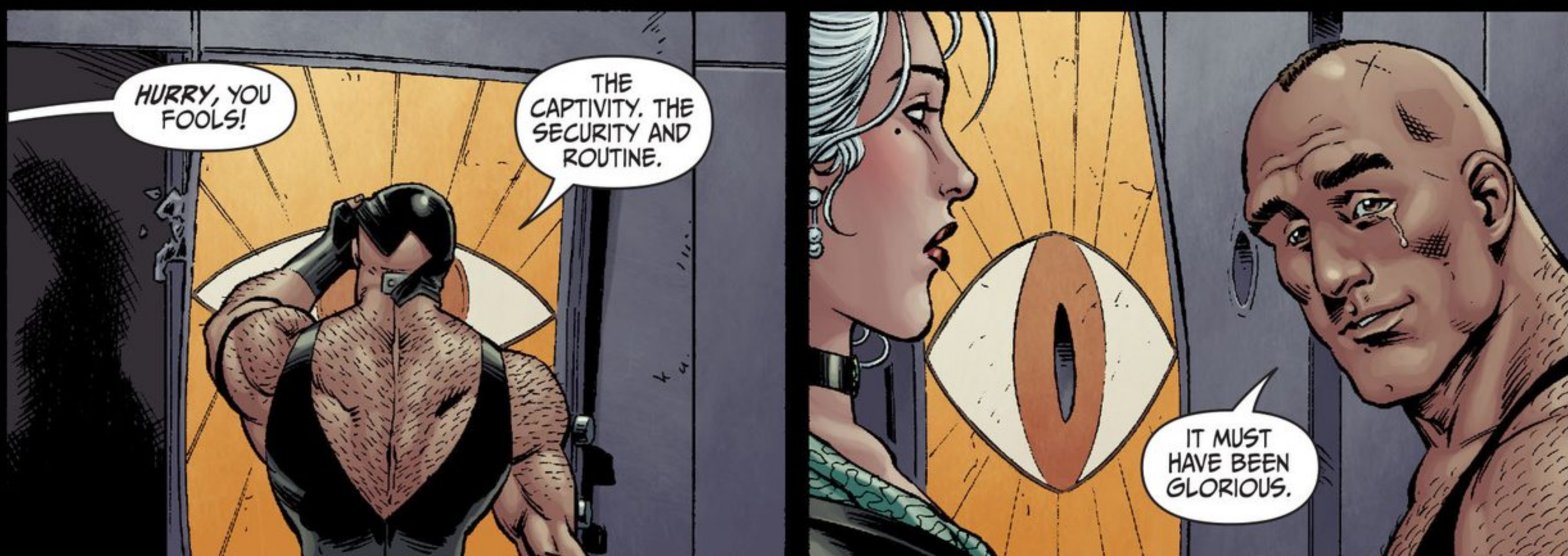
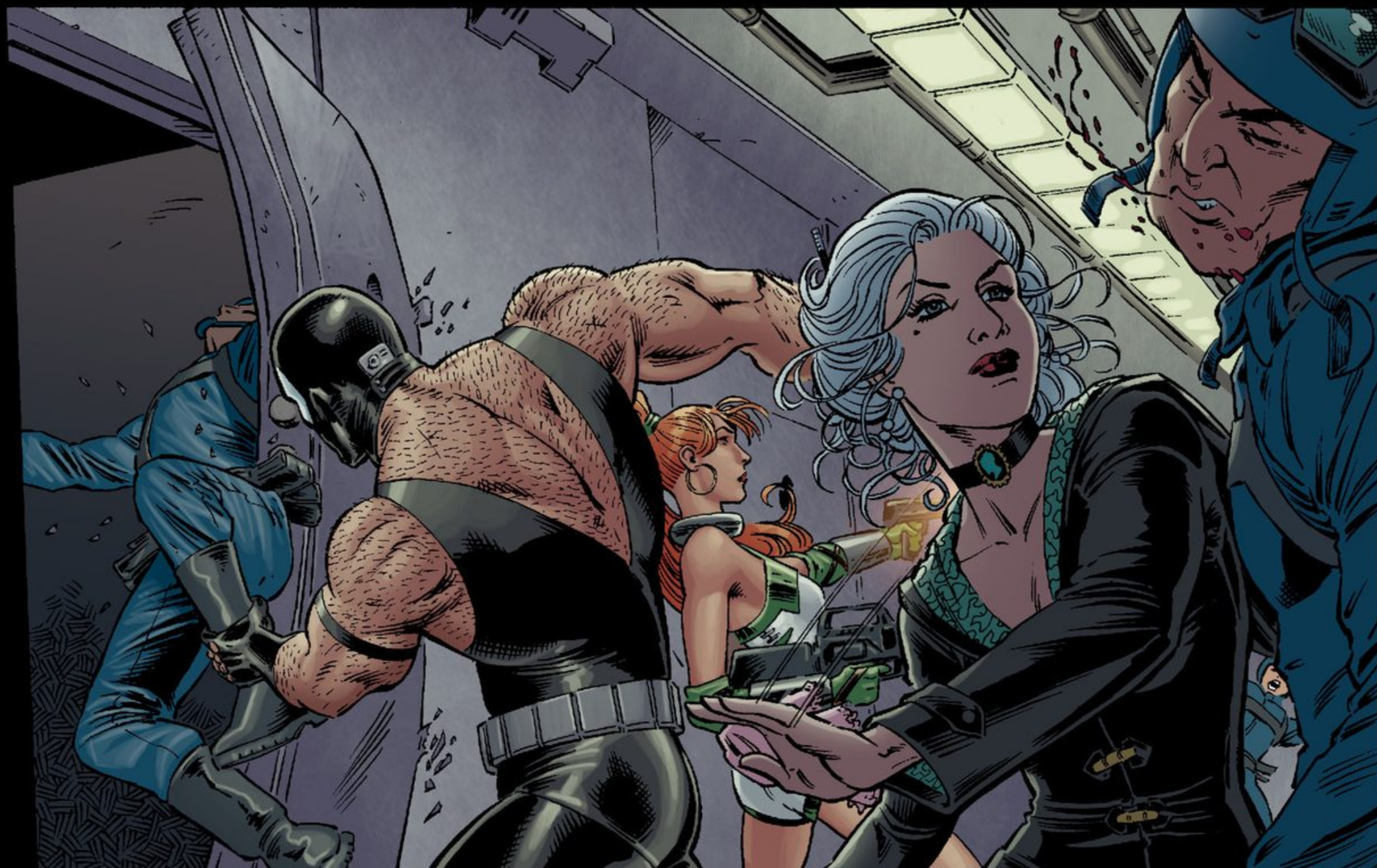
PROBABLY
NOT BOTH.



WHAT ARE
YOUR ORDERS,
SIR? WHAT DO
WE DO?

WHAT
DO WE DO,
LIEUTENANT?







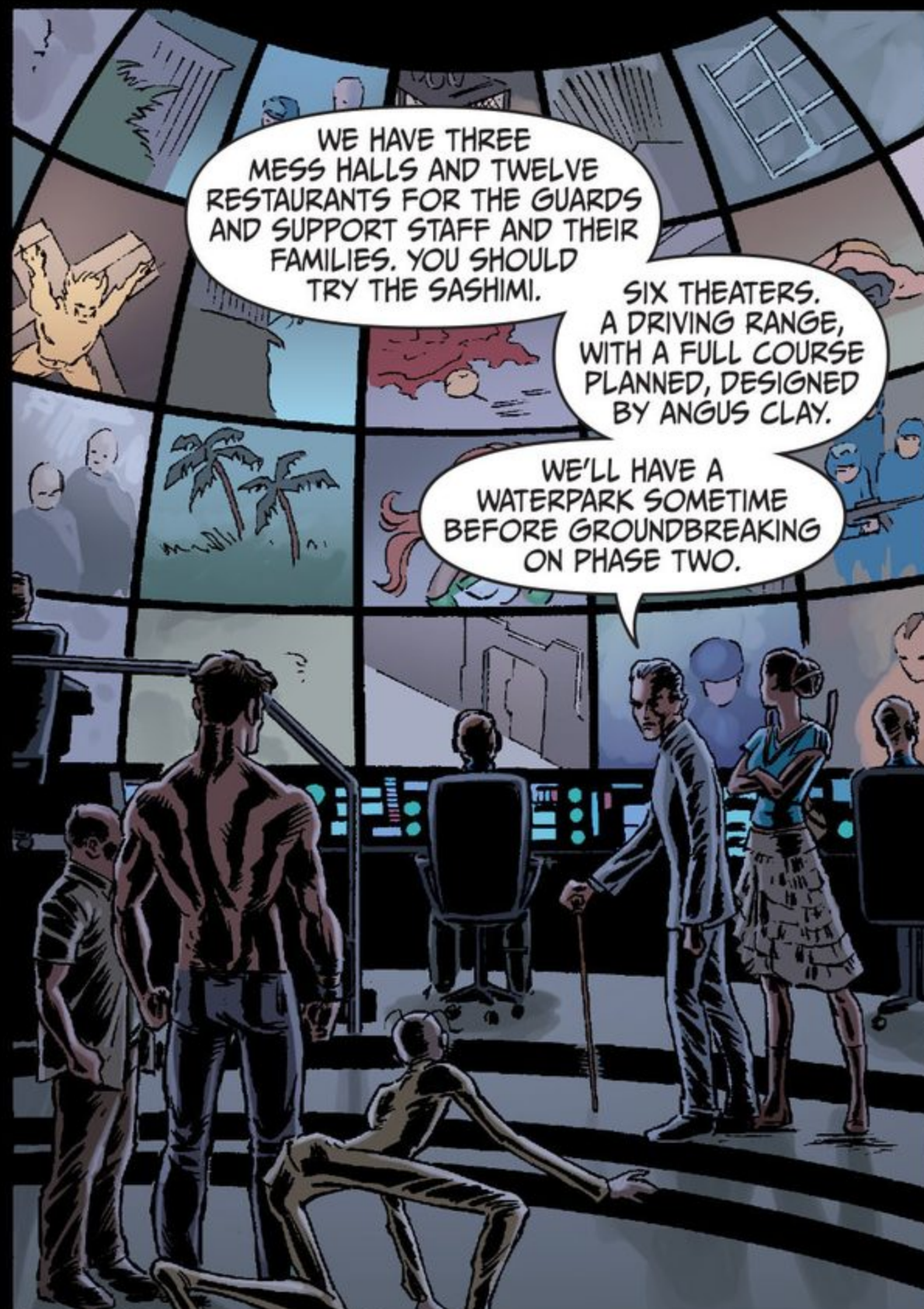
SCANDAL.
WHERE IS
SCANDAL?



OF COURSE,
WHAT YOU'VE SEEN IS
ONLY PHASE ONE. MANY
COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY
DRAFTED EXTRADITION
AGREEMENTS TO HAVE
THEIR PRISONERS
MOVED HERE.

THERE'S
AN EXTENSIVE
WAITING LIST,
IN FACT.

AS I SAID,
IT'S MORE OF A
COUNTRY THAN
A PRISON.



WE HAVE THREE
MESS HALLS AND TWELVE
RESTAURANTS FOR THE GUARDS
AND SUPPORT STAFF AND THEIR
FAMILIES. YOU SHOULD
TRY THE SASHIMI.

SIX THEATERS.
A DRIVING RANGE,
WITH A FULL COURSE
PLANNED, DESIGNED
BY ANGUS CLAY.

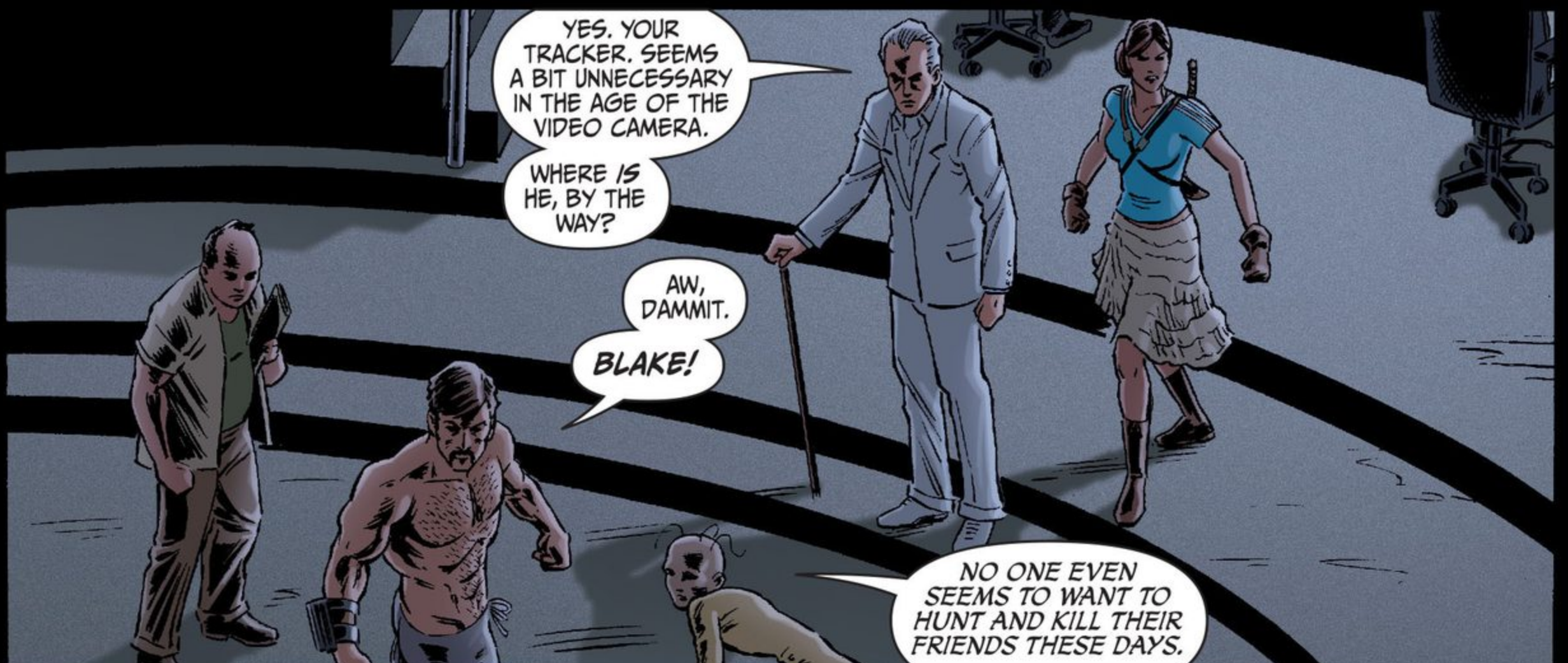
WE'LL HAVE A
WATERPARK SOMETIME
BEFORE GROUNDBREAKING
ON PHASE TWO.



YEAH, YEAH, IT'S A REGULAR
SUBURB WITH GUN TURRETS. IT'S
NOT LIKE I PLAN ON BUYIN' A
CONDO, SMYTH.

JUST GET YOUR
MEN OUT OF
THE WAY AND THE
KITTYCAT HERE'LL
TAKE US RIGHT
TO 'EM.

OOH, I
SHOULD
LEARN TO
SMOKE. IT'S
UNHEALTHY,
RIGHT? I HEARD
ONCE IT WAS
UNHEALTHY.
NEAT!



YES. YOUR
TRACKER. SEEMS
A BIT UNNECESSARY
IN THE AGE OF THE
VIDEO CAMERA.

WHERE IS
HE, BY THE
WAY?

AW,
DAMMIT.

BLAKE!

NO ONE EVEN
SEEMS TO WANT TO
HUNT AND KILL THEIR
FRIENDS THESE DAYS.



THIS PLACE...



... WILL BE THE RUIN OF US.

SCANDAL?

AWAKE, DAUGHTER. IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY.



Yawwwn

ARE YOU TAKING ME TO MY PRESENT, FATHER?

IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, YES, CHILD.



IT INVOLVES YOUR MOTHER.

SHE'S IN TERRIBLE DANGER AND ONLY YOU MAY SAVE HER.



YOU'RE NINE, NOW, DAUGHTER.

TIME TO PUT AWAY CHILDISH THINGS.



THIS IS CALLED A GAUNTLET, SCANDAL.

IF YOU RUN IT TO THE END, YOUR MOTHER LIVES.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MY BELOVED DAUGHTER.



I WILL SLIT HER THROAT MYSELF IF YOU LOOK AT ME WITH WEAK EYES AGAIN, CHILD!

GO!



MASTER SAVAGE, PLEASE DON'T KILL ME, BUT ISN'T SHE TOO...

A THOUSAND MEN HAD TRIED TO KILL ME BY THE TIME I WAS HER AGE, PRADO. I HAVE MILLIONS OF DESCENDANTS.



"BUT ONLY ONE POTENTIAL HEIR."





ENOUGH.

É O
SUFICIENTE POR
ENQUANTO.



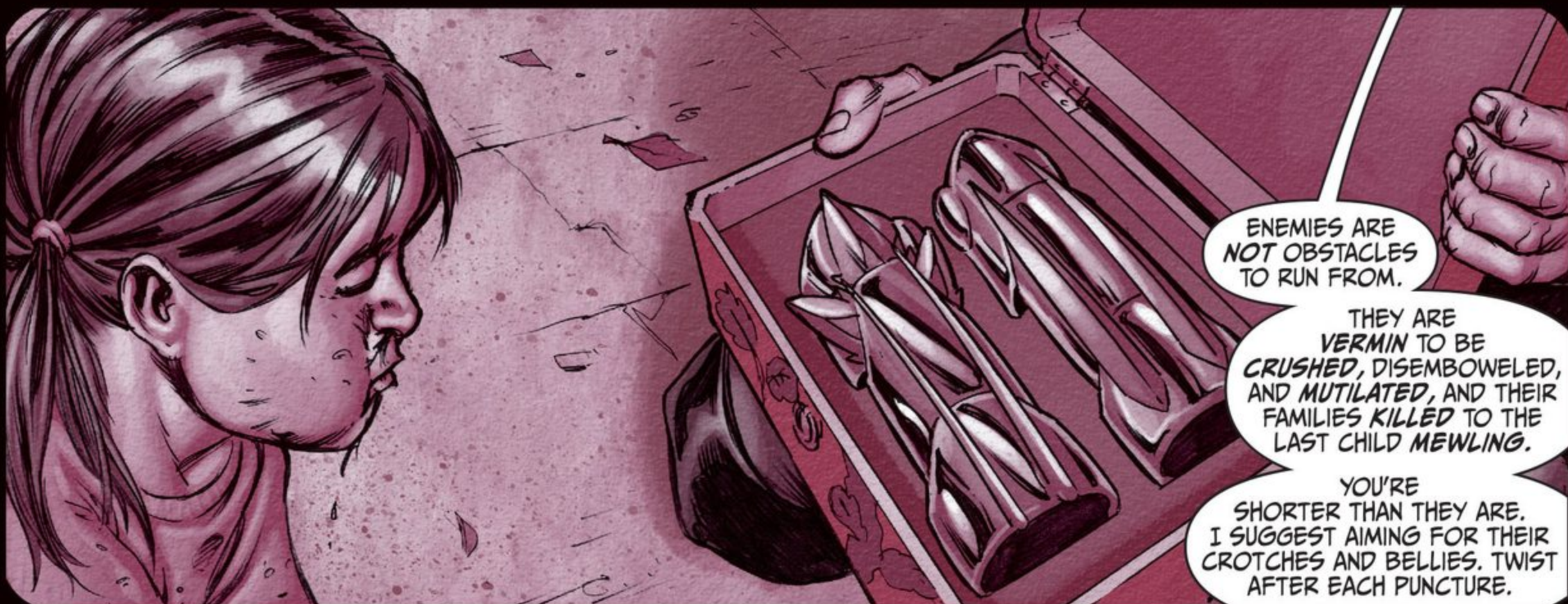
PAI! ME AJUDE, POR FAVOR!



PLEASE. I'M SORRY. MY MOTHER.

SHH SHH SHH, DAUGHTER. THIS IS YOUR GIFT, A SECOND CHANCE.

YOU FAILED BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT OF YOUR ENEMIES AS OBSTACLES TO RUN FROM.



ENEMIES ARE NOT OBSTACLES TO RUN FROM.

THEY ARE VERMIN TO BE CRUSHED, DISEMBOWELED, AND MUTILATED, AND THEIR FAMILIES KILLED TO THE LAST CHILD MEWLING.

YOU'RE SHORTER THAN THEY ARE. I SUGGEST AIMING FOR THEIR CROTCHES AND BELLIES. TWIST AFTER EACH PUNCTURE.



DE NOVO!
AGAIN!

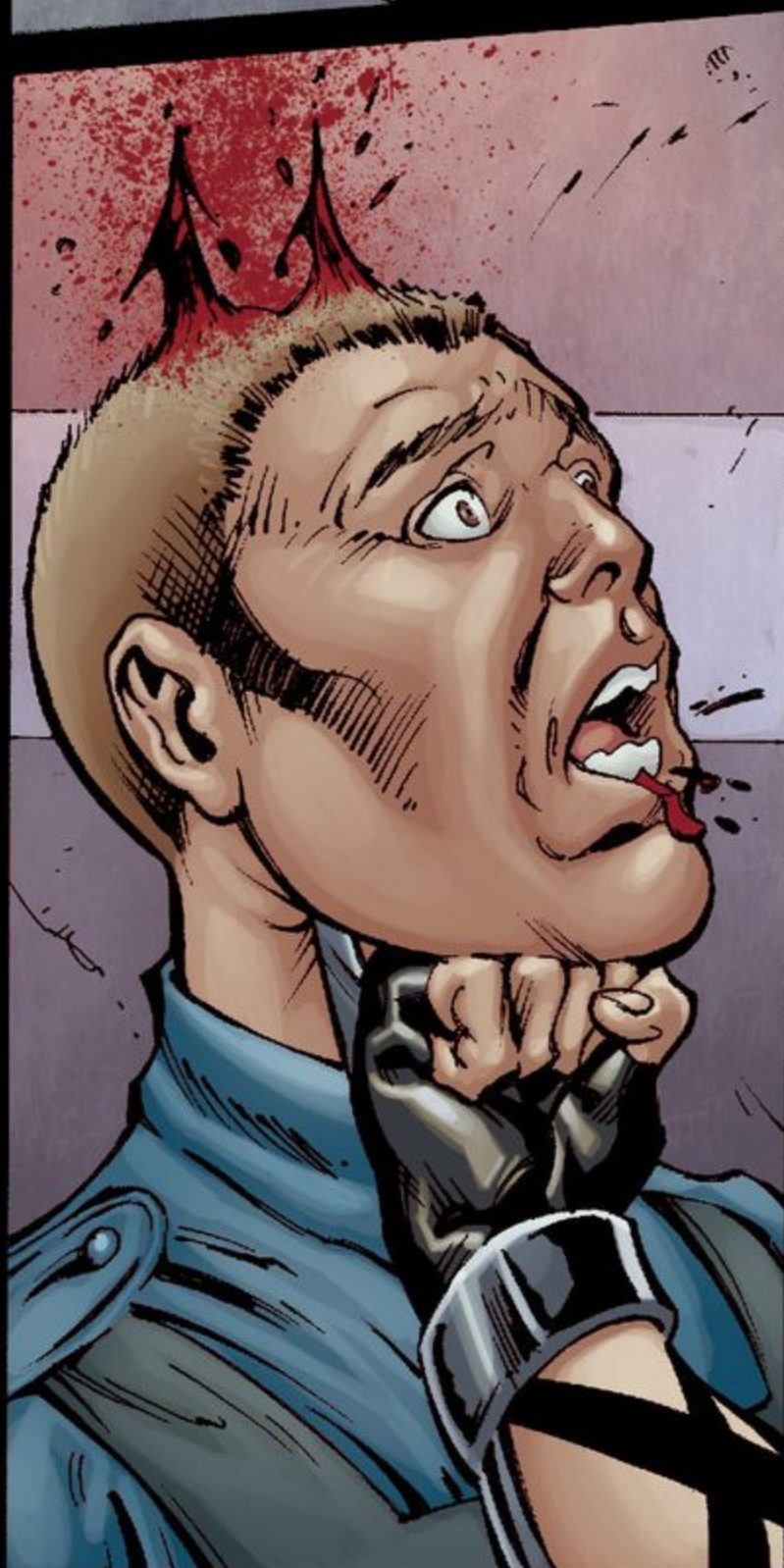
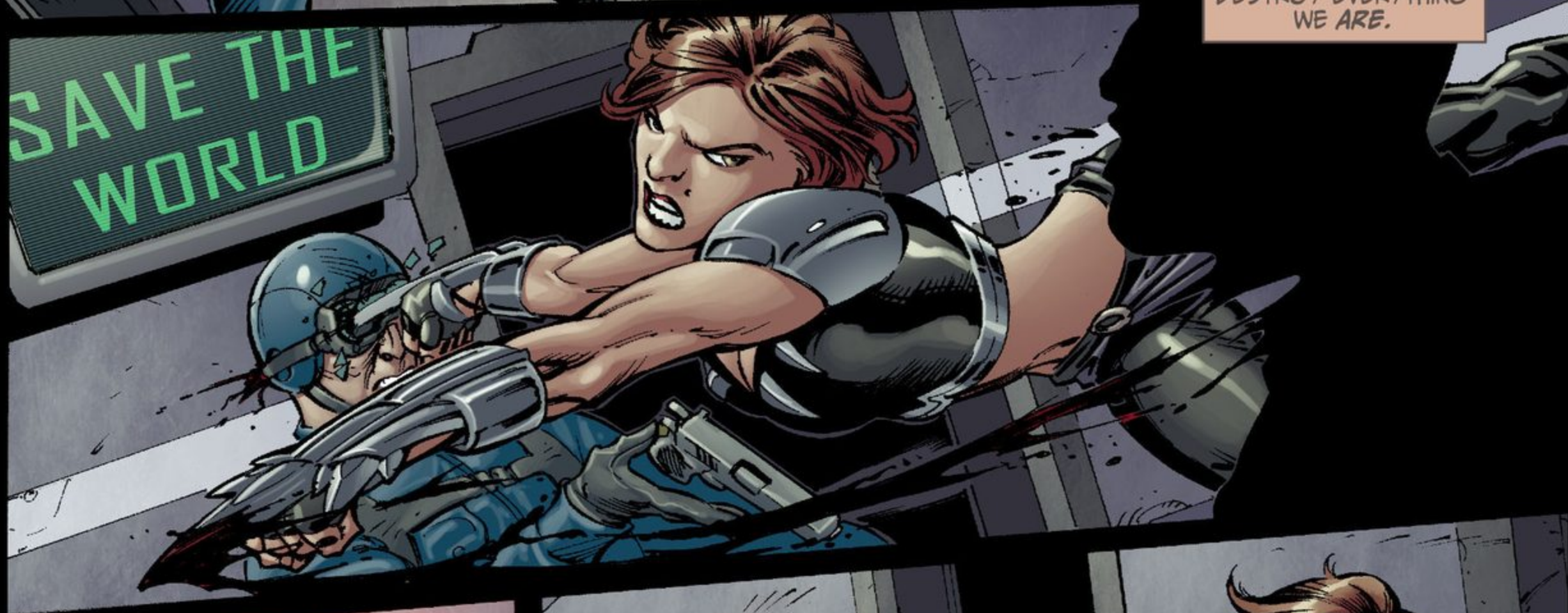


THE OTHERS DON'T UNDERSTAND.

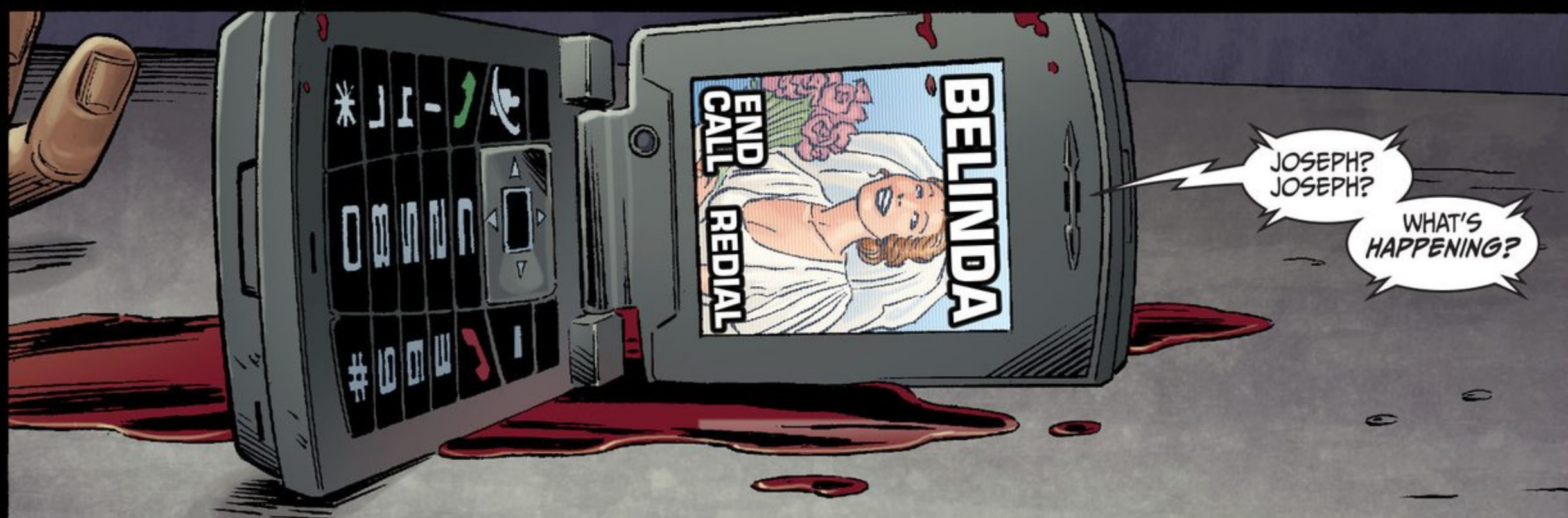
TIME'S UP.

SAVE THE WORLD

THIS PLACE WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING WE ARE.



I'M COMING, MOTHER.



JOSEPH?
JOSEPH?

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?



"ARE YOU LISTENING?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?"



DO YOU HEAR ME, MR.
LAWTON? TWO-THIRDS OF
YOUR "PROFESSIONAL TEAM"
HAVE ABANDONED THEIR
POSTS ENTIRELY.

I HEAR
YA. JUST...
DAYDREAMIN',
I GUESS.

ARE
YOU ALL RIGHT,
MR. FLOYD? SHALL
I DO A DANCE TO
AMUSE YOU?

WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO
DO ABOUT THIS,
LAWTON?



GUESS I'M GONNA KILL
THOSE IDIOTS AND GET MY
GODDAMNED REP BACK,
SHORTSTUFF.

THAT
SUIT YOU
ALL RIGHT,
DOES IT?

HMMM. I LIKE
THE KILLING PART,
BUT NOT THE NO-
DANCING PART.



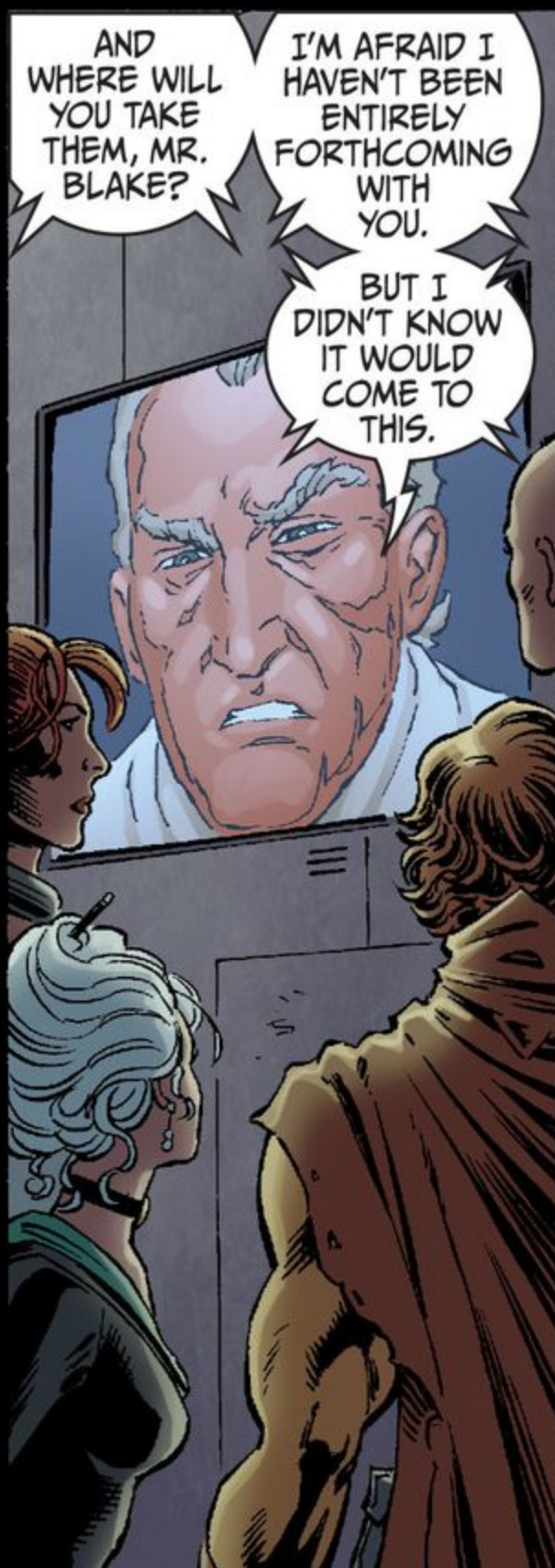
WE HAVE
TO GO BACK.
SHE COULD BE
DYING.

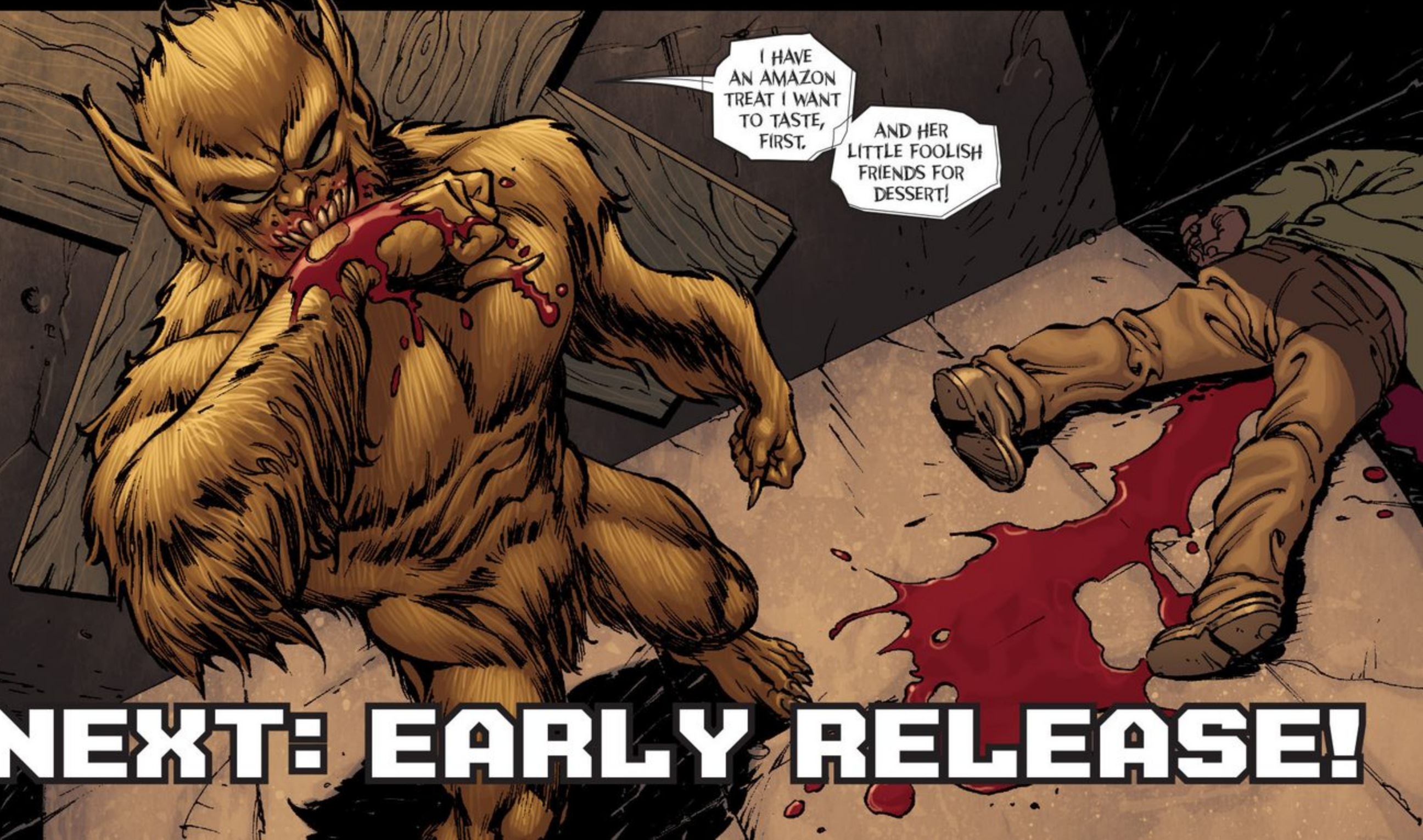
SHE WENT
BACK TO GIVE
US TIME, BANE.
TIME TO SAVE THE
AMAZONS.

SHE'S RIGHT,
DARLING.

I'M
SORRY.

YOU
PEOPLE
MAKE A LOT OF
NOISE FOR A
STEALTH MISSION,
YOU AWARE OF
THAT?





NEXT: EARLY RELEASE!



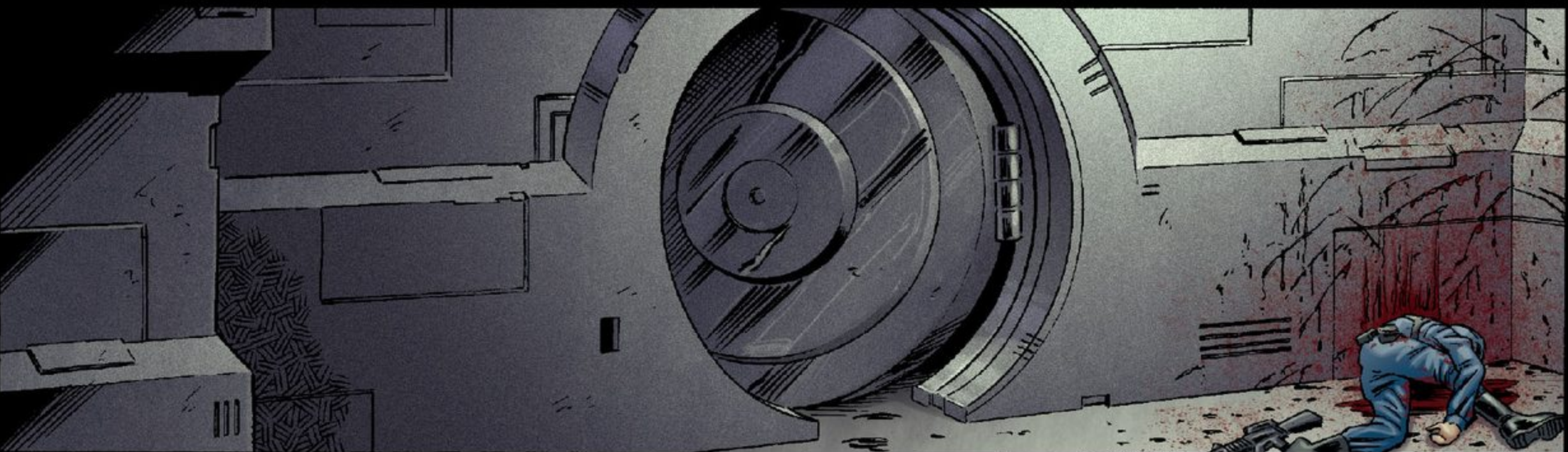
14
DEC '09

**SIMONE
SCOTT
HAZLEWOOD**

SECRET XX









GREETINGS,
MORSEL.

DEPTHS

PART FIVE

EARLY RELEASE

GAIL SIMONE-WRITER

NICOLA SCOTT WITH CARLOS RODRIGUEZ-PENCILLERS

DOUG HAZLEWOOD AND MARK McKENNA

WITH CARLOS RODRIGUEZ-INKERS

JASON WRIGHT-COLORIST

PAT BROSSAU-LETTERER

DANIEL LUVISI-COVER SEAN RYAN-EDITOR



I WONDER.

WHAT DOES
FOOD THINK,
AS IT IS BEING
EATEN?



DOES IT
WEEP?



DOES IT
STRUGGLE?
DOES IT
SUBMIT?

DO
YOU FEEL MY
TOUCH?



THE BLOOD
OF THE FIRST
MURDERER--SAVE
GOD HIMSELF--
HEATS MY HEART,
AMAZON.



AND YOU
SHALL BE
MINE.

AND WE
SHALL BE
ONE.

AND I
SHALL BE
FED.



DARK LORD,
DESCENDANT OF
CAIN, BEFORE YOU
CONSUME THE GIFT
I'VE DELIVERED
TO YOU...



...I WONDER
IF YOU MIGHT
KILL SOME
UNBELIEVERS
FOR ME,
FIRST.



GET TO THE
ROOF. THE
CHOPPERS.

GET TO THE
ROOF!



≡SNIFF≡

HHH. A STORM
APPROACHES.

I DON'T THINK
THEY'RE GOING TO
MAKE IT, THOMAS.
WHAT A PITY.

WHAT IS IT
WITH YOU AND
AMAZONS,
JEANNETTE?



BANSHEES DON'T CARE FOR
IMMORTALS AT THE *BEST*
OF TIMES, THOMAS. THEY
MAKE US SOMEWHAT...
IRRELEVANT, I SUPPOSE.

BUT THREE THOUSAND
YEARS THEY STAYED ON THEIR LITTLE
TROPICAL ISLAND WHILE WOMEN
WERE TREATED LIKE CATTLE ALL
OVER THE WORLD.



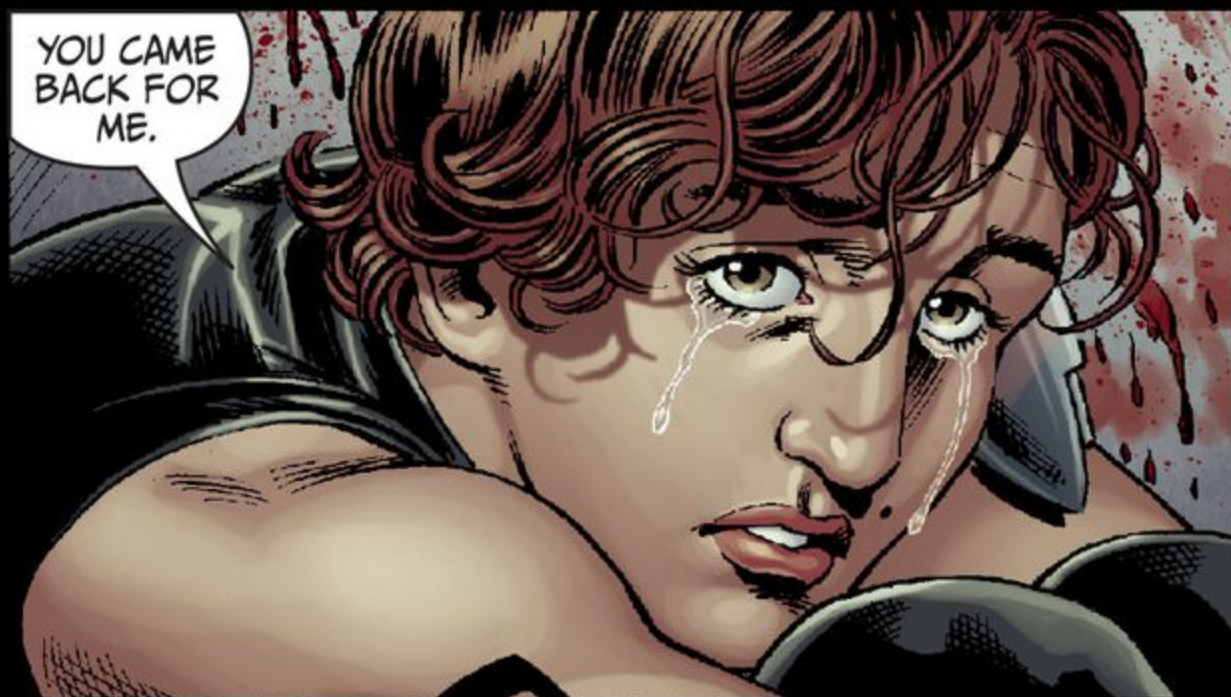
A FEW LESS OF THEM
WON'T CAUSE ME TO
SHED ANY TEARS, I'M
AFRAID.

NOW ARE WE
GOING TO THIS
ROOF OR
NOT?



SCANDAL.

SCANDAL SAVAGE.



YOU CAME BACK FOR ME.



I WILL ALWAYS COME BACK FOR YOU.



ARE YOU...

ARE YOU INJURED?

NO.

THIS PLACE.

IT'S INSIDE ALL OF US. WHATEVER SMALL GLUE HOLDS US ALL TOGETHER IS MELTING AWAY.



NONSENSE.

BANE.

I KNOW WHAT I SAID.

ABOUT THE VENOM.



BUT WE NEED BANE. THE BANE.

WE NEED THE BANE WHO BEAT THE BAT.



IT IS NOT IMPORTANT.
I FORGIVE YOU.

SOMETHING
IS COMING.
SOMETHING
HUGE.

NO. NO, BANE. YOU
MISUNDERSTOOD.

THIS ISLAND IS
SURROUNDED BY
HUNDREDS OF GUARDS
AND ENOUGH WEAPONS
TO START A WAR.



THIS IS NOTHING HUMAN,
NOR IS IT ANYTHING HUMANS
ARE MEANT TO SEE.

GET
BEHIND
ME.

I KNEW WE
NEEDED **THAT**
BANE. THE MASTER
STRATEGIST. IF
ANY OF US WERE
TO SURVIVE.

THE VENOM
DOESN'T HELP ME
PLAN, SCANDAL.

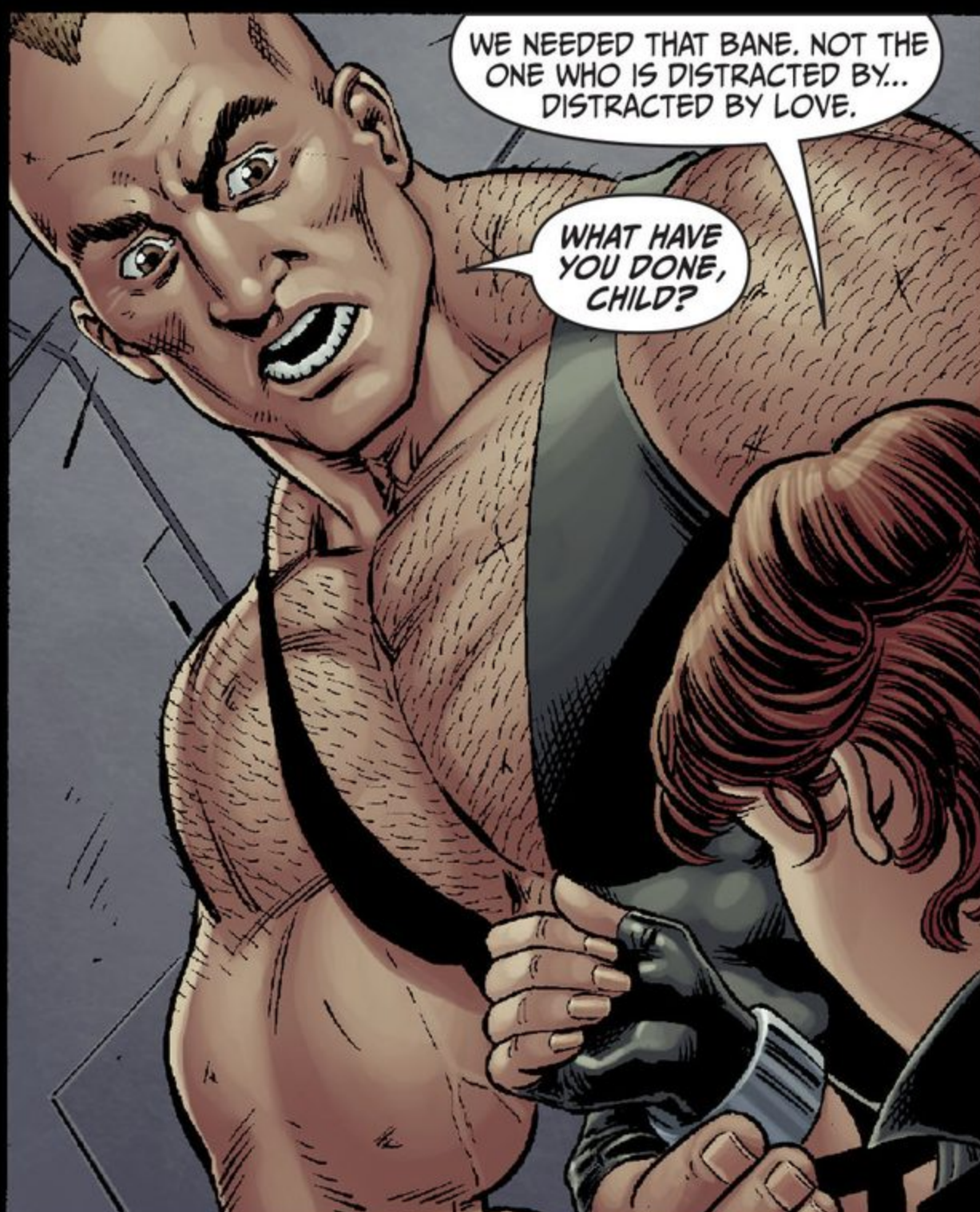
IT MERELY--



--MAKES YOU A
MONSTER. I
KNOW.

I KNOW.

WHAT?



WE NEEDED THAT BANE. NOT THE
ONE WHO IS DISTRACTED BY...
DISTRACTED BY LOVE.

WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE,
CHILD?



WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?



SEE, THE SCREAMS OF THE GUARDS INDICATE TO ME THAT THE AMAZONS ARE PRETTY DAMN USEFUL, REALLY.



MM.



I NOTICE YOU LET THEM GO FIRST, HOWEVER.

THE AMAZON WAYS ARE DEAD. I SHOULD KNOW.

I USED TO BE ONE.

I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE HEALING PURPLE RAY.



SMYTH SAID YOU CUT YOUR TONGUE OUT.



I DO. EACH NIGHT.

AND EVERY DAY IT GROWS BACK.



EVERY NIGHT, ON THEMYSKIRA, I WOULD CUT MYSELF.

SMALL WOUNDS AT FIRST.

AT FIRST.



THEN FINGERS, TOES, EARS, EYES.

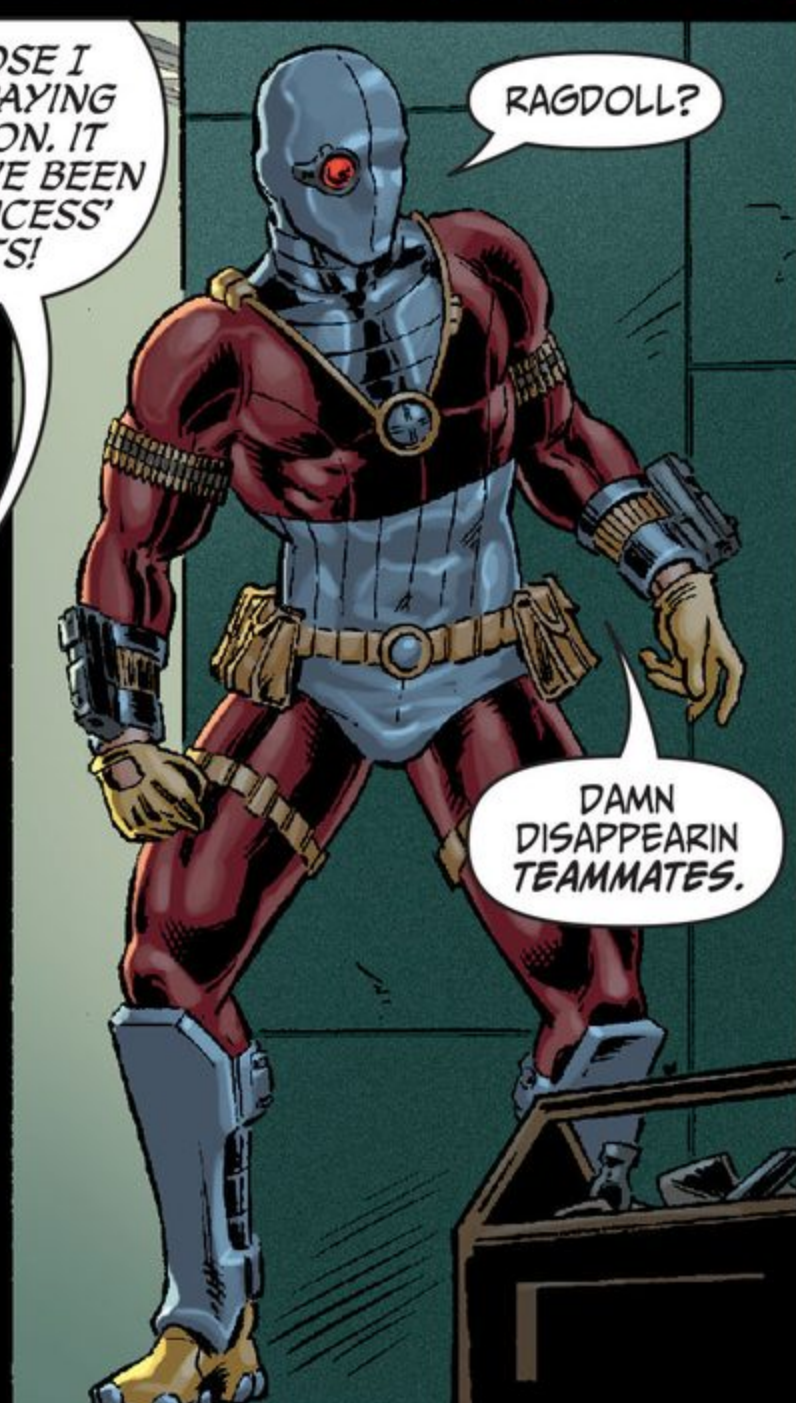
EVENTUALLY WHOLE LIMBS.

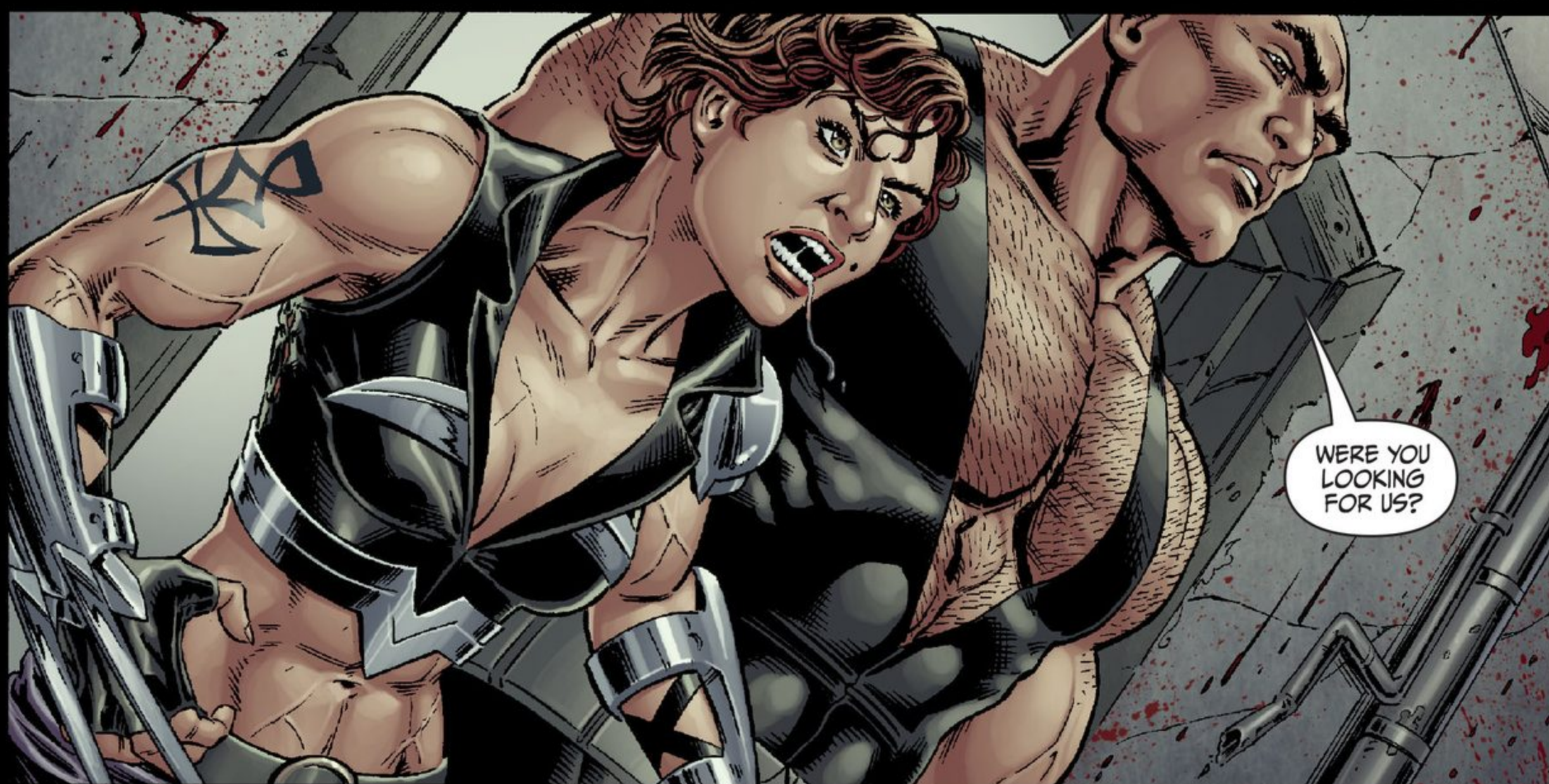


AND NOW... AND NOW... THE RAY IS INSIDE ME, SOMEHOW.

I DON'T THINK I EVEN CAN BE KILLED.









THEY'RE FREE. OH, MY GOD, THE AMAZONS ARE FREE!

DIE, DEMON, DIE.

...WONDER WHY I DON'T LIKE AMAZONS.

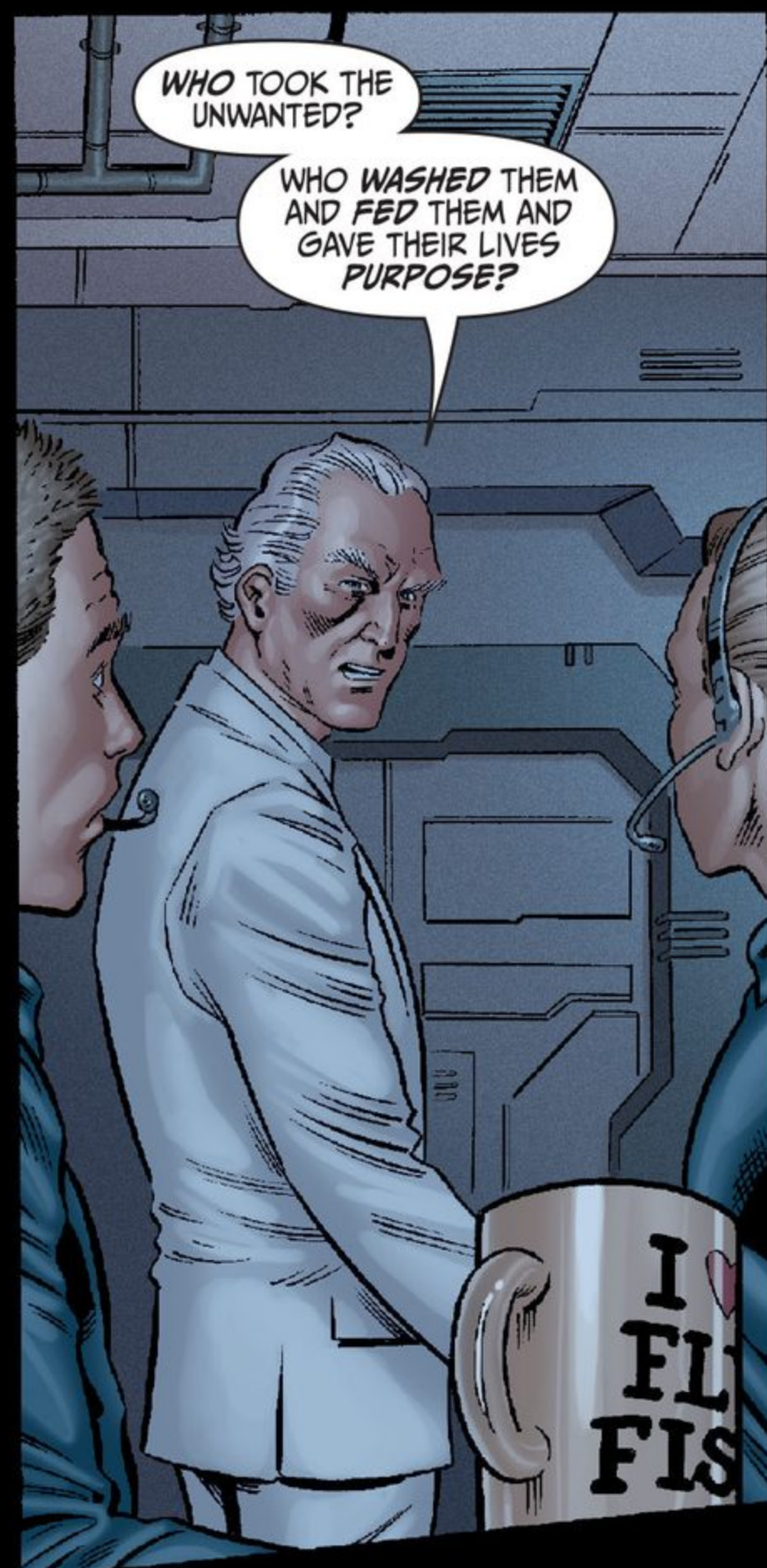
SIR, WE'VE LOST MAYBE THREE DOZEN GUARDS ALREADY.

EVACUATE. SHOULD WE EVACUATE?

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS.

WE WERE GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD.

I'VE FAILED YOU, MOCKINGBIRD.

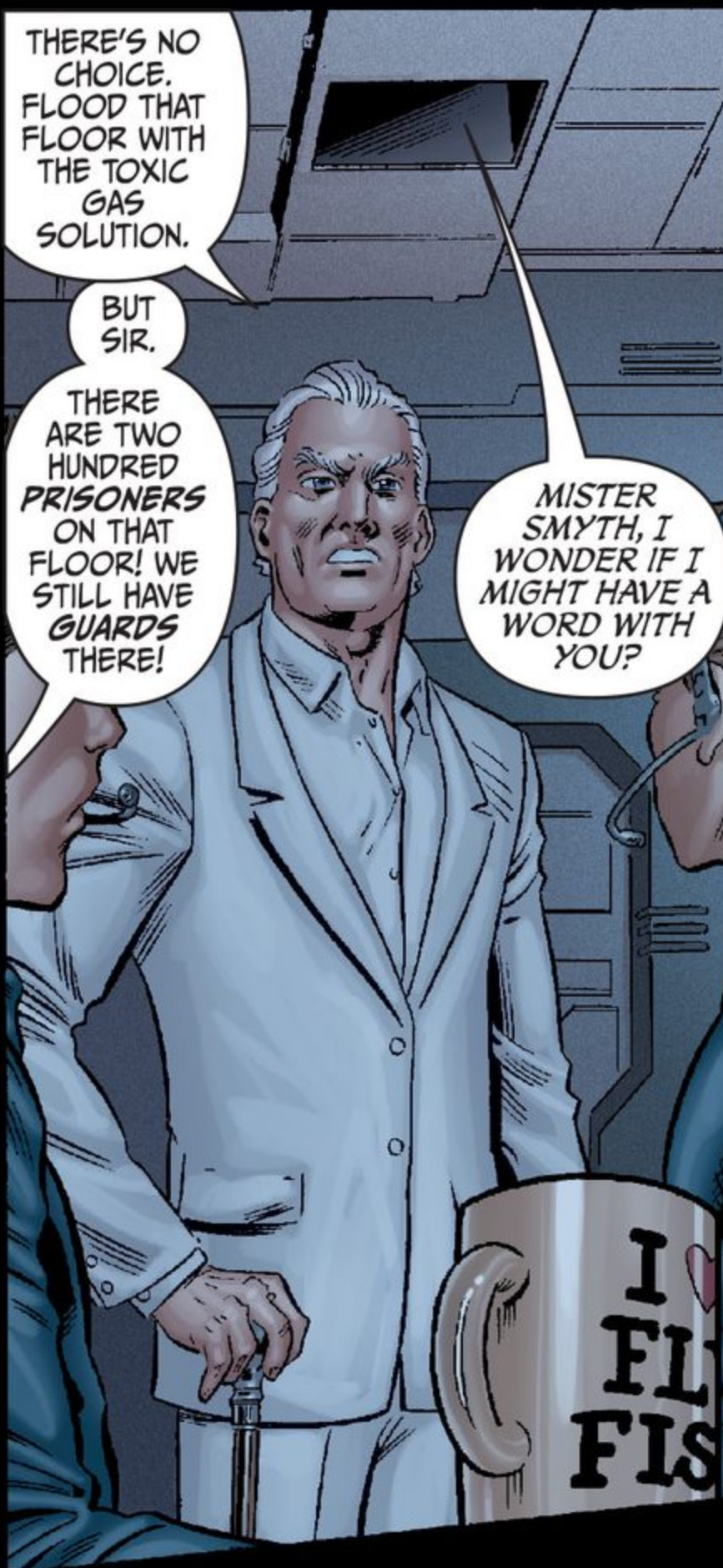


WHO TOOK THE UNWANTED?

WHO WASHED THEM AND FED THEM AND GAVE THEIR LIVES PURPOSE?



WHO HAD THE BALLS TO SAY SLAVERY IS JUSTICE?



THERE'S NO CHOICE. FLOOD THAT FLOOR WITH THE TOXIC GAS SOLUTION.

BUT SIR.

THERE ARE TWO HUNDRED PRISONERS ON THAT FLOOR! WE STILL HAVE GUARDS THERE!

MISTER SMYTH, I WONDER IF I MIGHT HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?



MR. SMYTH?

DO IT. FLOOD THAT FLOOR, AND THE ONES ABOVE AND BELOW IT.

OR YOU'LL BE IN THE MINES YOURSELF BY NIGHTFALL!

UH... YOO HOO?



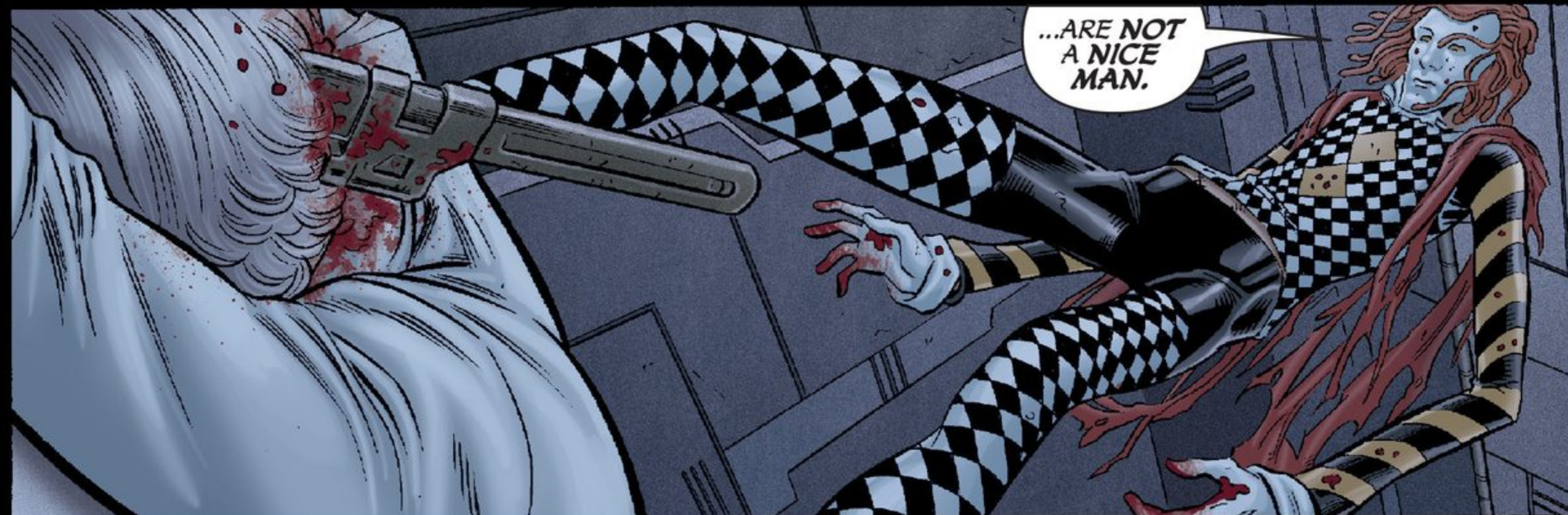
WHAT IS I...



JESUS WEPT!



YOU, SIR...



...ARE NOT A NICE MAN.





I NEVER WANTED TO GET PAID ANYWAY.



YOU ALIVE THERE YET, CHAMP?

BARELY. THANKS FOR SHOOTING YOUR ENEMY INSTEAD OF YOUR FRIEND FOR ONCE.

HEY, MAYBE I MISSED, EVER THINK OF THAT?

SHE'S GONNA MAYBE HEAL UP, GIVEN TIME, YOU KNOW.

NO.

NO, SHE WON'T. NOT IF SHE'S DRESSED AND CLEANED AND DISPOSED OF PROPERLY.



THE GUARDS HERE ARE NOW IN HELL.

GRAB OUR WOUNDED AND DEAD. WE MAKE FOR THE ROOF.

BE WARY. MORE ARE COMING.





I AM HIS ONLY
LEGITIMATE HEIR.
HE MARRIED MY
MOTHER.

DO YOU
NOT SEE? HE
MOUNTED MY
CAVEBEAST OF
A MOTHER AS
WELL.

THAT
MAKES US
BROTHER AND
SISTER.



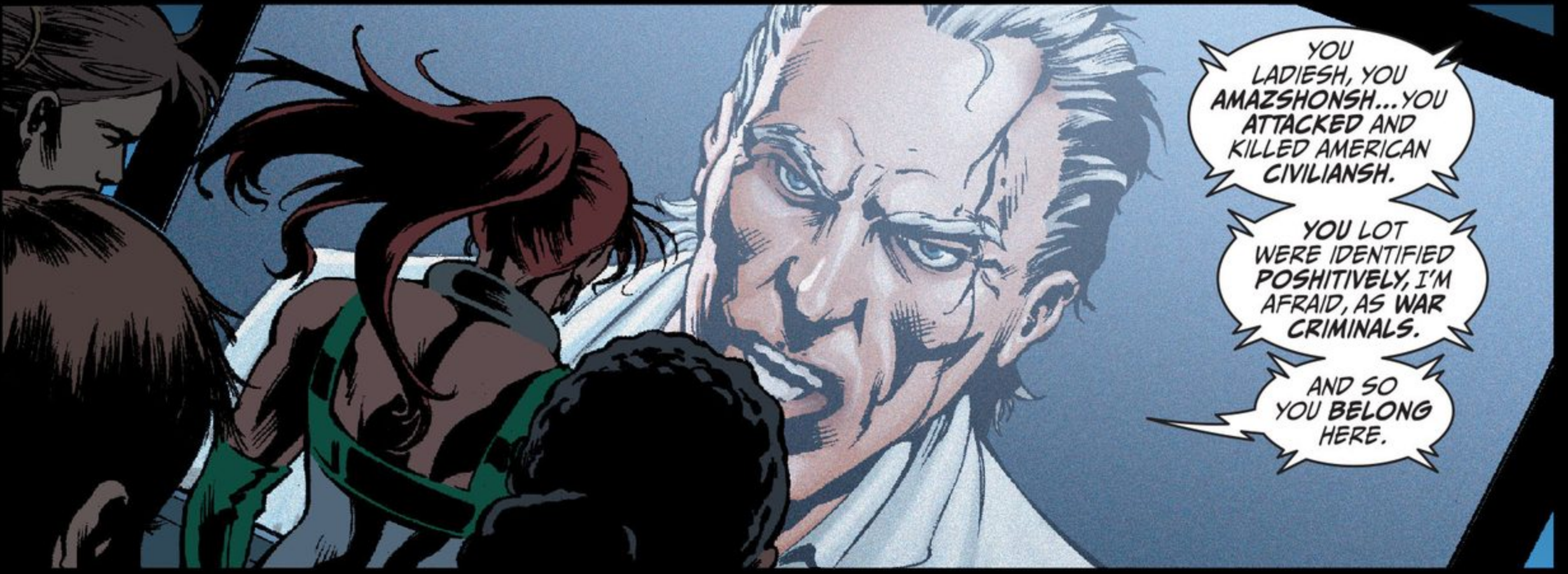
AND THAT
MAKES YOU A
BLOOD-INFECTED
DELICACY!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO SUCK DRY
FIRST!



DEAR
LADIESH.

I WONDER
IF I MIGHT SHPEAK
WIF YOU. WHILE I AM
STILL SHOMEWHAT
CONSCIOUSH.



YOU
LADIESH, YOU
AMAZSHONSH...YOU
ATTACKED AND
KILLED AMERICAN
CIVILIANS.

YOU LOT
WERE IDENTIFIED
POSITIVELY, I'M
AFRAID, AS WAR
CRIMINALS.

AND SO
YOU BELONG
HERE.

IF YOU
ESCAPE
FROM MY
BEAUTIFUL
DREAM.

IF YOU
RETURN
TO YOUR
ISLAND.

EVENTUALLY,
THE WORLD WILL
FIND YOU. THEY
WILL COME
FOR YOU.

AND THEY
WILL DESTROY
THEMYSCIRA.

RETURN TO
YOUR CELLS. OR BRING
ABOUT THE DEATH OF
YOUR CULTURE AND
FAMILIES.

THOSE
ARE YOUR ONLY
CHOICES.

DESTROY
THEMYSCIRA...?

WE CAN'T
ALLOW...

...GO BACK IN
THAT CELL AGAIN.
I WON'T.

THERE IS A
THIRD CHOICE,
BETWEEN
PRISON AND
WAR.

EVERYONE, GET
ON YOUR KNEES. IN
FORMATION, AS
AMAZONS.

FACE
THEMYSCIRA.
PRAY TO OUR
GODS.

AND SAY
GOODBYE.



GAMEY. FEMALE. COPPER-SCENTED MORSEL.

I EAT OF YOUR WEAKNESS.



EH?



I HAVE A RULE AGAINST KILLING, WHERE POSSIBLE.

DEMONS ARE AN EXCEPTION.

KRAKAKK



YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME, GRENDEL.

MAY YOU FIND PEACE IN THE BEYOND.



ATHENA WOULD BE PROUD OF YOU, AMAZON.

I WILL JOIN YOU ALL SOON AFTER.

STOP!



ARTEMIS!

PLEASE.
DON'T DO THIS
AWFUL THING!

YOU WERE
RIGHT ABOUT THIS
PLACE. RIGHT ABOUT
EVERYTHING.



THIS WASN'T MEANT
FOR YOUR EYES,
SLAVER.

PLEASE.

I'M SORRY.
THIS IS PREFERABLE,
FOR US. WE CANNOT
BE CHAINED OR
INVADED AGAIN.

MAY I REQUEST
THAT WHEN I AM DONE...



...THAT YOU
PERSONALLY
END MY
LIFE?

THAT IS THE
ONE THING YOU CAN
DO FOR ME.

BRAVE
ARTEMIS.



YOU ARE FILLED
WITH DEATH
GLAMOUR.

AN AMAZON
DOES NOT RUN
FROM DUTY.

AND
YOUR DUTY IS
TO LIVE.

DID I SEARCH
THE WORLD FOR
YOU JUST TO LOSE
YOU HERE?



IT'S THIS
PLACE. IT'S
THIS HORRID
PLACE.

LEAD US,
PRINCESS.
LEAD ME.

I CANNOT.

BUT YOU
DON'T TRULY
NEED ME
TO.



WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
WE CAN'T DESTROY THE
PLACE...IT'S FULL OF
PRISONERS.

AND THE
ENTIRE ISLAND
IS LEGALLY
SANCTIONED.

I CAN FREE THE
SLAVES AND FILL
IN THE MINES, FOR
ONE THING.

ONE HELL IS
ENOUGH FOR ANY
UNIVERSE.



YOU.
TORRES.

YOU WILL RUN THIS
PLACE. AND YOU WILL
RESTORE ORDER AND
HUMANITY.

ME?
WHAT? BUT I
DON'T...

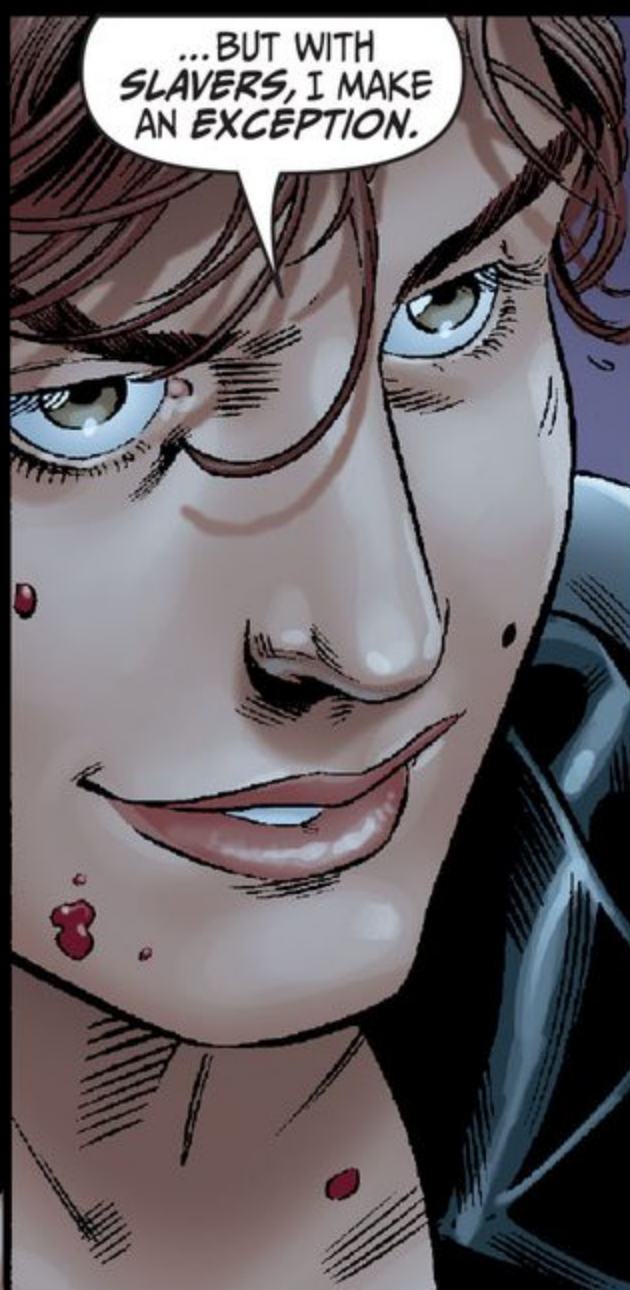
IT IS BECAUSE
YOU DON'T WANT THE
RESPONSIBILITY THAT
YOU MUST TAKE IT.



NOW, THERE'S STILL A MATTER
OF SOME DEAD GUARDS, I
UNDERSTAND.

YES. I'D CALL
IT SELF-DEFENSE,
PRINCESS.

I MAKE IT A RULE
NEVER TO KILL WHEN
POSSIBLE...



...BUT WITH
SLAVERS, I MAKE
AN EXCEPTION.



I SEE.

GET
SOME MEDICAL
ATTENTION.

AND THEN GET
WHATEVER DISTANCE YOU
POSSIBLY CAN FROM ME,
SCANDAL SAVAGE. THAT IS
MY SUGGESTION TO
YOU ALL.

SOON...

WHERE'S
MR. LAWTON,
PETER?

HE SAID HE HAD
SOMETHING TO DO,
SCANDAL. I DAREN'T ASK
WHAT. THEY THINK
SMYTH ESCAPED, AS
WELL, BAD, BAD
MAN!

I'M COLD. IT'S
LIKE THE HEART
OF DEATH IS ALL
AROUND ME.

IT'S
THE VENOM,
SCANDAL
SAVAGE.

YOU SHOULD NOT
HAVE TAKEN IT.

WHICH BRINGS ME
TO OUR FAILURE AS
AN AGGREGATE.

EVERY MISSION YOU
UNDERTAKE ENDS IN
INJURIES AND
NON-PAYMENT.

I AM ASSUMING
COMMAND. YOU NOW
WILL OBSERVE MY
ORDERS.

JEANNETTE
AGREES THAT THIS
MANEUVER IS
NECESSARY.

ARGUE THE POINT
WITH **HER** IF YOU
MUST.

BANE.
YOU CAN'T...
WE AREN'T
MINDLESS
ASSETS.

YOU
CAN'T SIMPLY
DECIDE THAT--

I'M SORRY. OUR CURRENT
SITUATION IS UNTENABLE.
SO I CAN AND I HAVE.

AND MY FIRST
COMMAND IS...

...**YOU ARE
OFF THE TEAM,
SCANDAL
SAVAGE**.

I SUPPOSE I'D
BE VOTED DOWN IF I
SUGGESTED WE GO BACK
AND GET THE PRINCESS'
LASSO, RIGHT?

NEVER
MIND.



MFFUH?



HEY THERE,
STARSHINE.

RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE, SMYTH?
S'WHERE YOU TRICKED ME INTO
SHOOTING AN ESCAPING SLAVE
LADY. IN THE *BACK*.

NO HARD
FEELIN'S.

IN FACT,
TELL YA WHAT,
COULDN'T BE
FAIRER. WHY
DON'T I GIVE
YOU THE SAME
CONSIDERATE
DEAL YOU
OFFERED
HER?



YOU START
RUNNIN'.

MAKE IT
TO THAT
FENCE...

...YOU
LIVE TO BE
A POMPOUS
DUMBASS
ANOTHER
FINE DAY.



NUH! I *CAND!*
I *CAND!*

HELP.

NAH ME! NAH
MEEEE!



AW, NOW LOOK AT
THAT. HE'S DOWN BUT
STILL GOIN', BRAVE
LITTLE CREEP.

UNFORTUNATELY,
I SAID *RUN*, NOT
CRAWL.



IF THERE'S ONE
THING I HATE IT'S A
GUY WHO AIN'T GOT ANY
COMMITMENT.

END



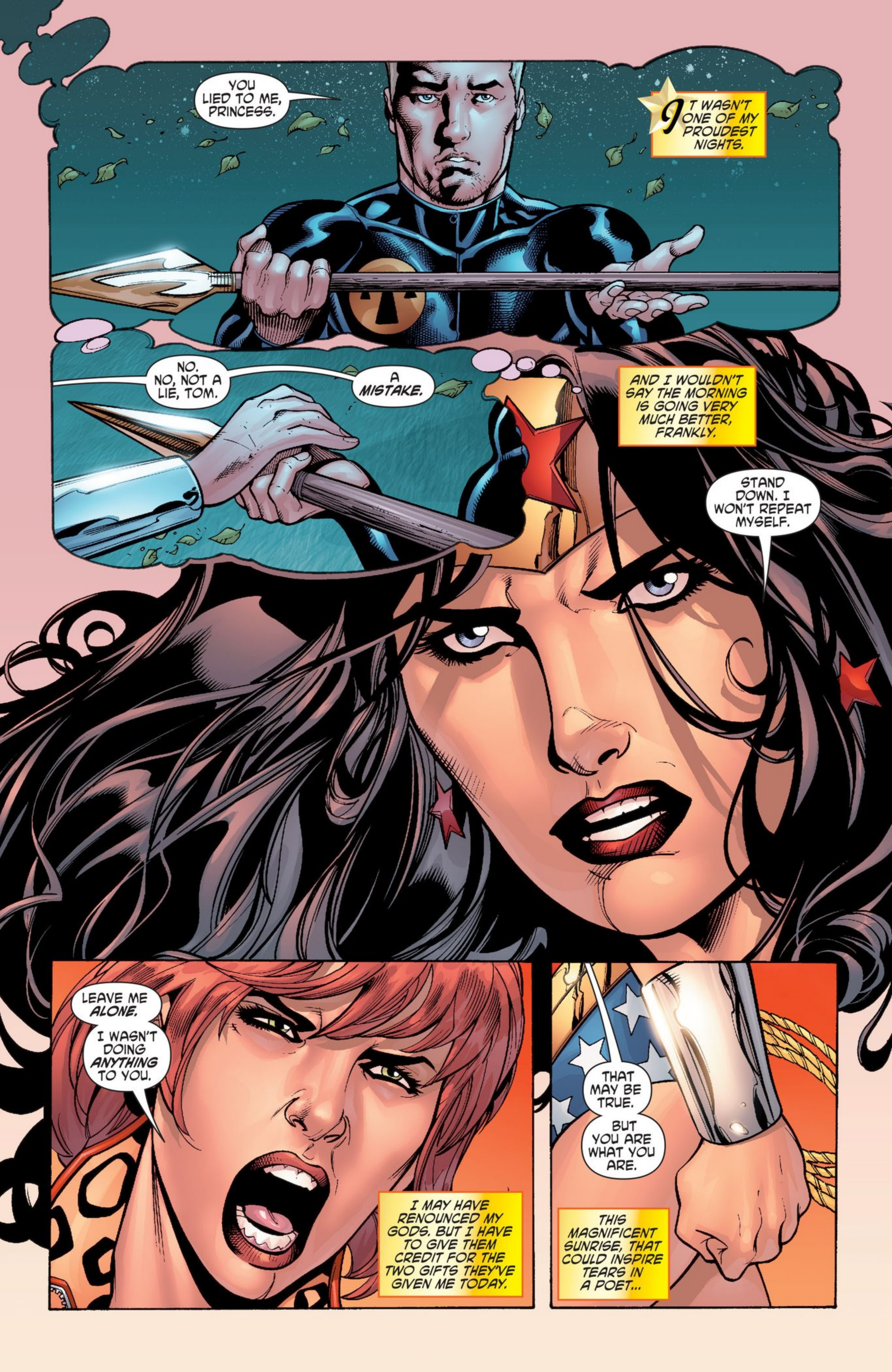
36
NOV '09

GAIL
SIMONE
AARON
LOPRESTI
MATT
RYAN

Wonder Woman







YOU
LIED TO ME,
PRINCESS.

9 I WASN'T
ONE OF MY
PROUDEST
NIGHTS.

NO.
NO, NOT A
LIE, TOM.

A
MISTAKE.

AND I WOULDN'T
SAY THE MORNING
IS GOING VERY
MUCH BETTER,
FRANKLY.

STAND
DOWN. I
WON'T REPEAT
MYSELF.

LEAVE ME
ALONE.

I WASN'T
DOING
ANYTHING
TO YOU.

I MAY HAVE
RENOUNCED MY
GODS. BUT I HAVE
TO GIVE THEM
CREDIT FOR THE
TWO GIFTS THEY'VE
GIVEN ME TODAY.

THAT
MAY BE
TRUE.

BUT
YOU ARE
WHAT YOU
ARE.

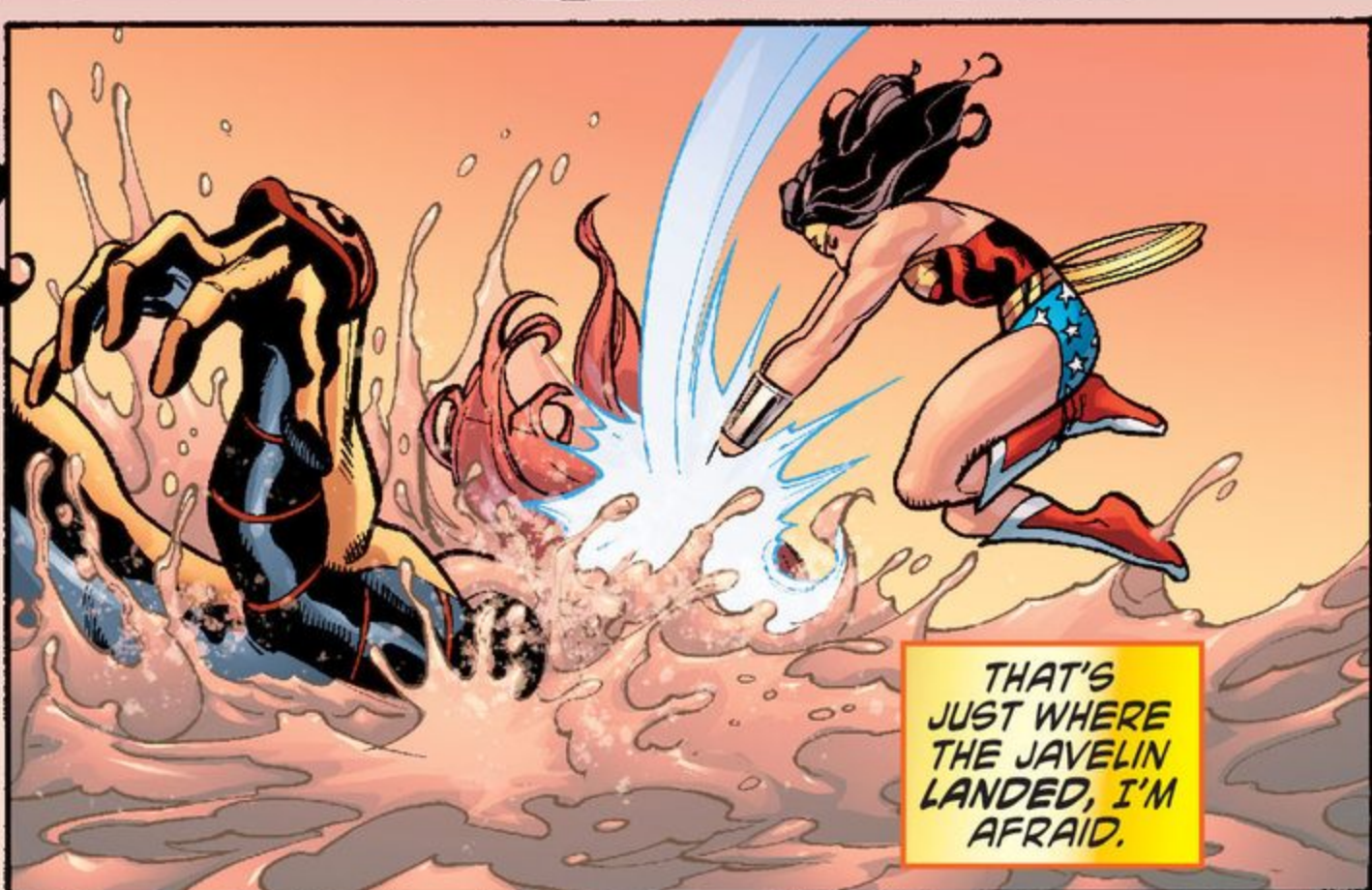
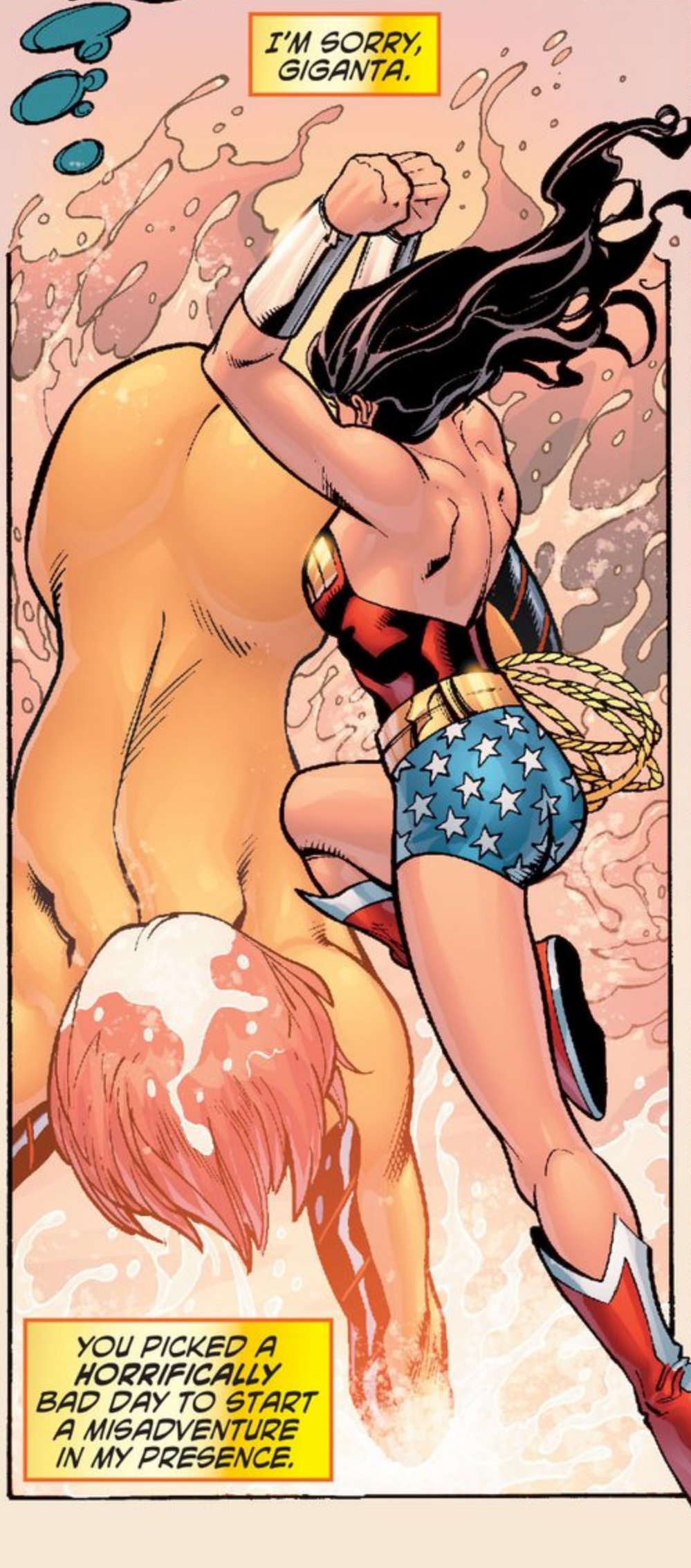
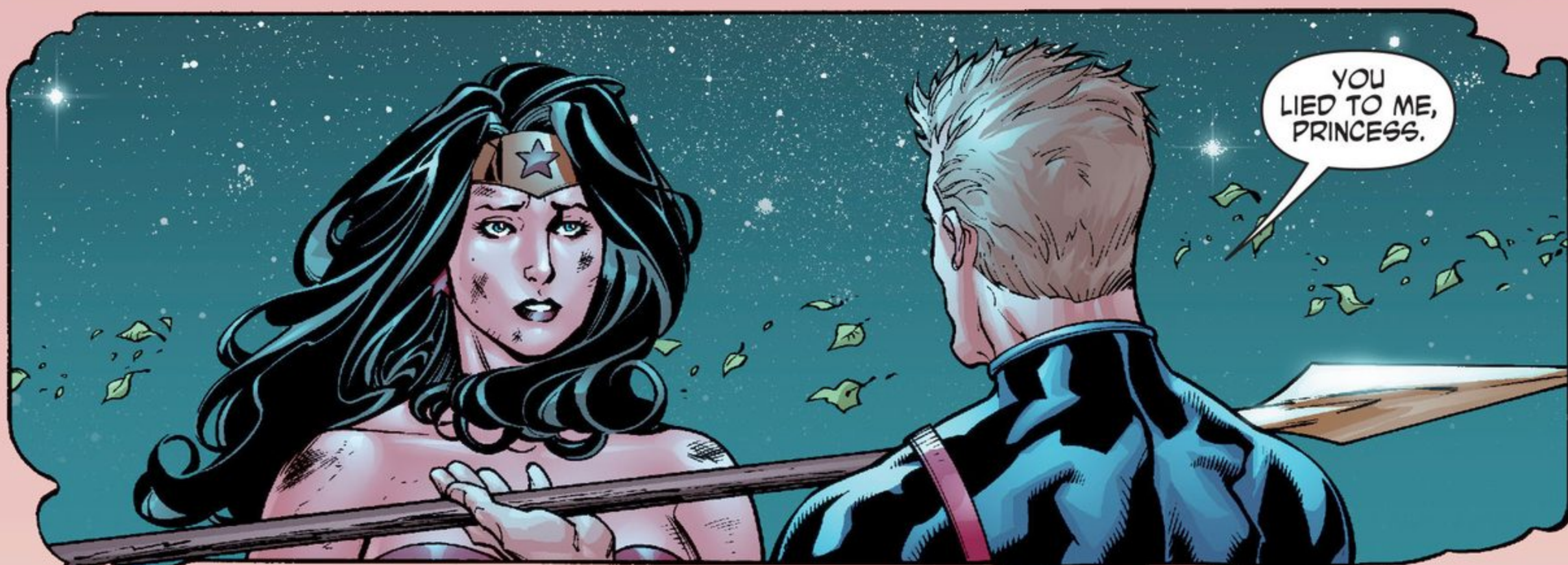
THIS
MAGNIFICENT
SUNRISE, THAT
COULD INSPIRE
TEARS IN
A POET...

AND EVEN
BETTER...

...SOMETHING
BIG TO HIT.

WAR KILLER

PART 1 OF 4: HEART OF FIRE



STOP!



STOP, ALL RIGHT?

I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING.

JUST STOP.

IF YOU AREN'T "DOING ANYTHING," WHY ARE YOU *IN COSTUME* AND THREE BLOCKS FROM A *MILITARY INSTALLATION*, SISTER?

DO YOU THINK I'M A FOOL? DO YOU THINK I'D FORGET YOUR PAST?

OF COURSE NOT. HEAVEN *FORBID* ONE OF YOU "HEROES" SHOULD FORGET SOMEONE'S *PAST*.

I'M HERE FOR A DATE, WONDER WOMAN. TO GET SOME EGGS FLORENTINE AND WATCH THE SUNRISE.

YOU KNOW ABOUT DATES, RIGHT?

OR DID THEY NOT HAVE DATES ON YOUR LITTLE PERFECT ISLAND?

"MY LITTLE PERFECT ISLAND."

HUH.

NOT SO PERFECT.





AND MAY I HAVE YOUR SWORD ARM?



YES, THANK YOU.

I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THAT YOUR THREE GUARDSMEN ARE IN THE TREES READY TO ATTACK AND KILL ME.

YES. QUITE POSSIBLY.

GO ON, IF YOU MUST REACH YOUR DESTINATION.



YOU'RE TREMBLING.

FINISH.



ΣΥ ΓΙΓΝΩΣΚΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΑΛΛΗΝ ΚΑΡΔΙΑΝ

"THAT THOU SHALL KNOW THE HEART OF ANOTHER."



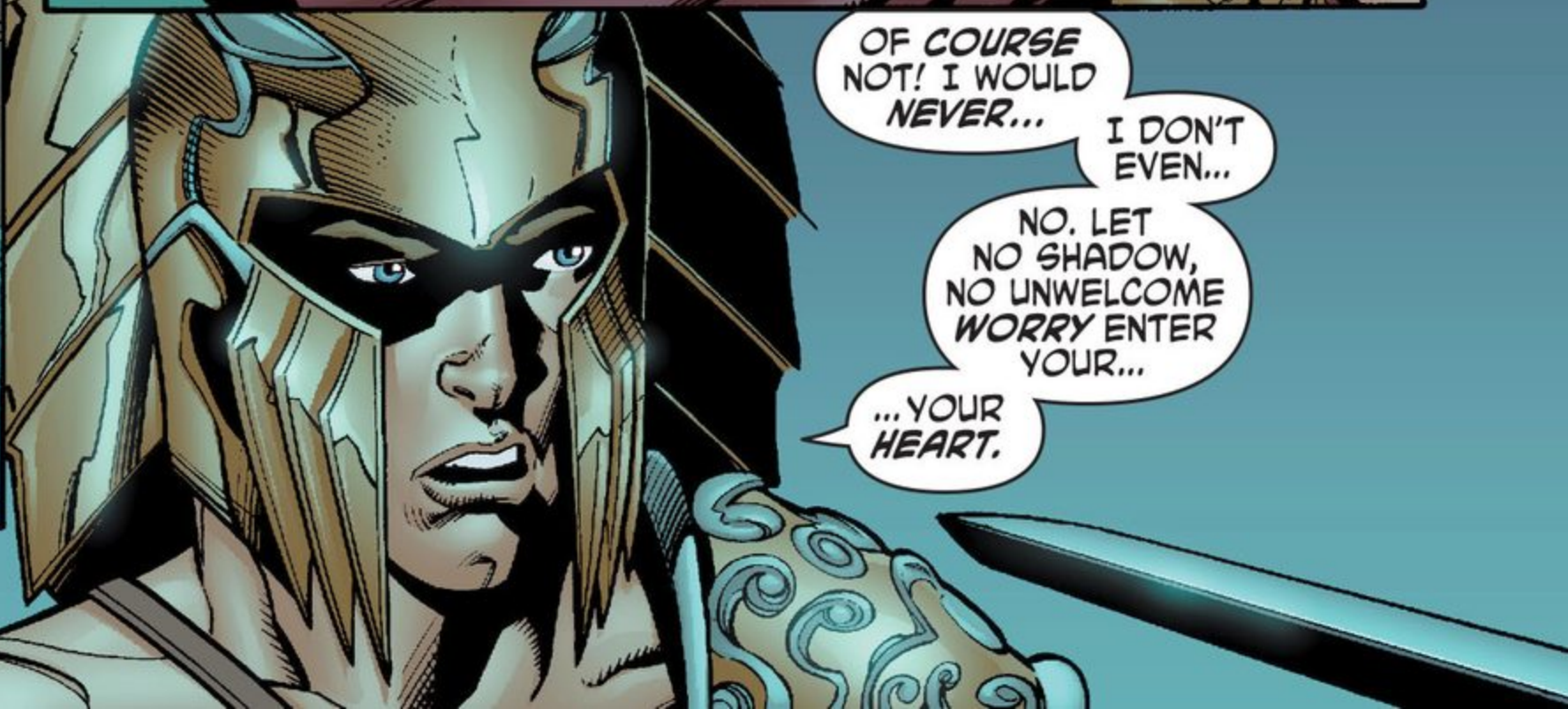
DID I...

WAS THAT SATISFACTORY?



THIS IS A MARRIAGE OF STATE ONLY.

THERE WILL BE NO PHYSICAL CONGRESS.



OF COURSE NOT! I WOULD NEVER...

I DON'T EVEN...

NO. LET NO SHADOW, NO UNWELCOME WORRY ENTER YOUR...

...YOUR HEART.



I SEE. AND I SUPPOSE I AM NOT AS FINE AS THE SOFT WOMEN THAT THE HERO OF TROY IS ACCUSTOMED TO BEDDING?

NO. NO. CURSE IT ALL, WOMAN. STOP.



NOW, PHILOMELA.



MIND YOUR STEP, MY KING.

YES. THANK YOU.

YOU WILL BE QUEEN.

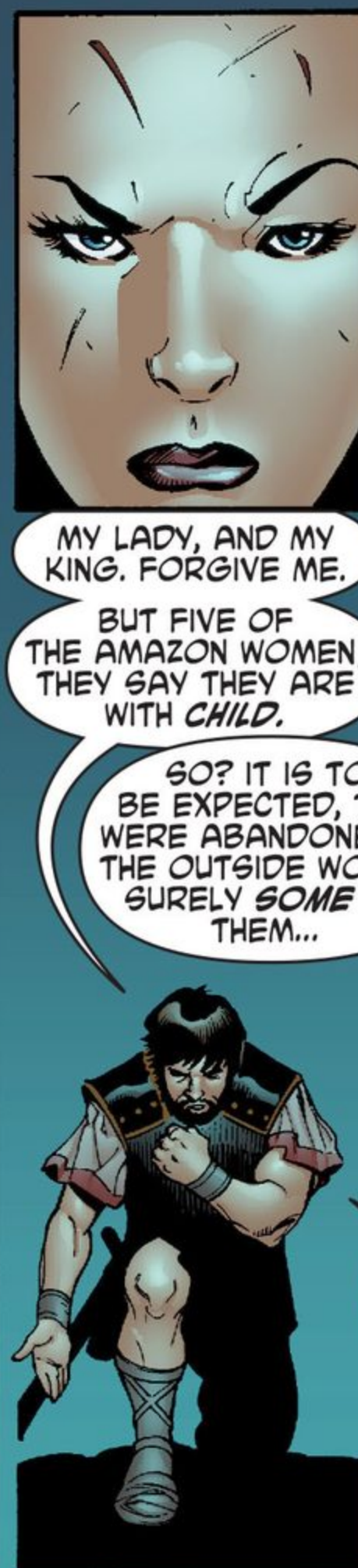
AND I... WE... WILL FIND LOVERS ELSEWHERE, IS IT A PACT?



HAIL, MY KING!

WE...

SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED.



MY LADY, AND MY KING. FORGIVE ME.

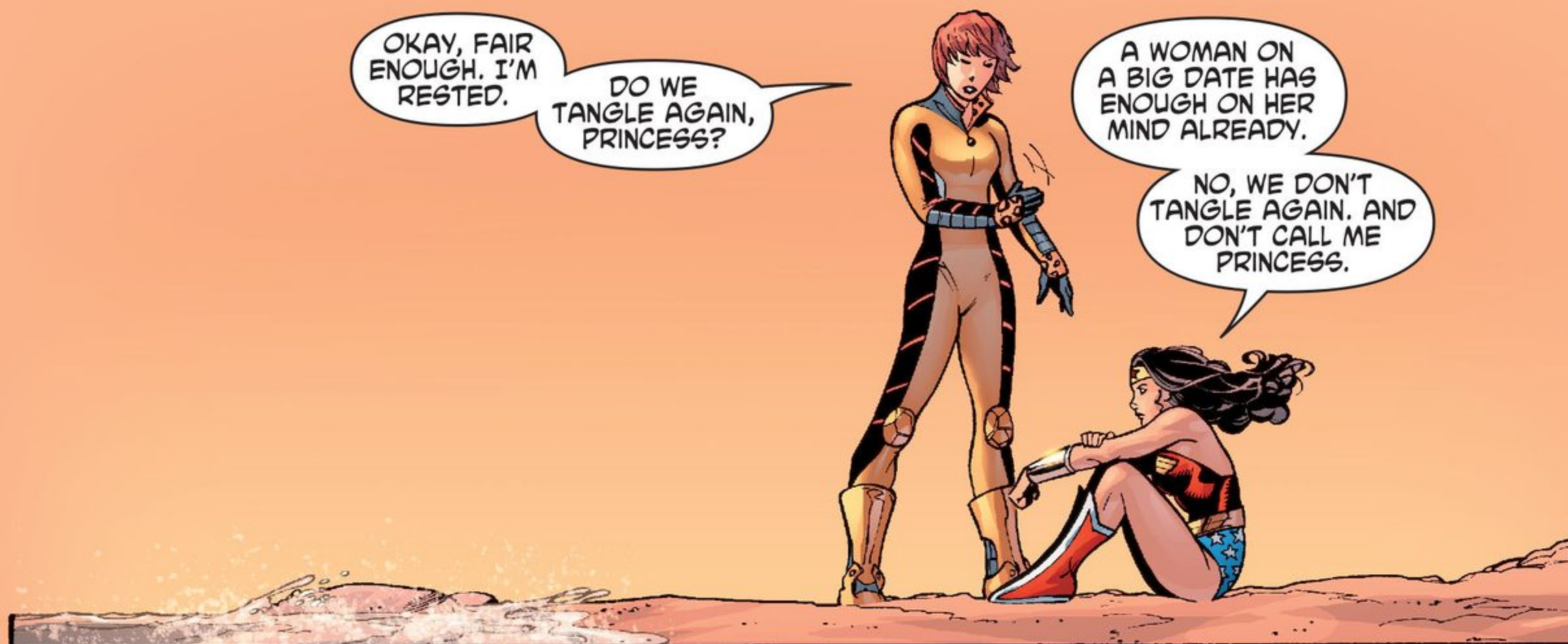
BUT FIVE OF THE AMAZON WOMEN, THEY SAY THEY ARE WITH CHILD.

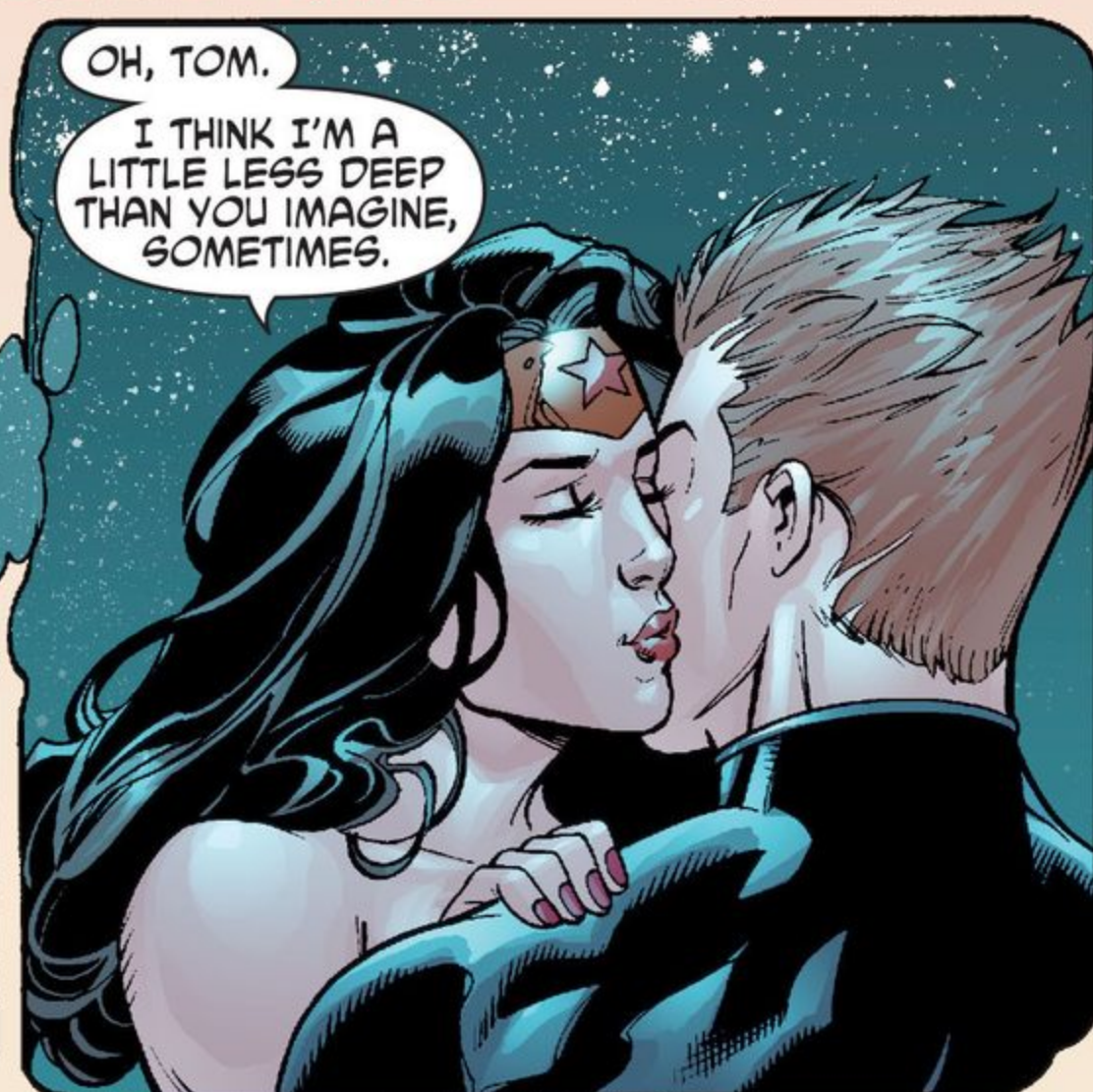
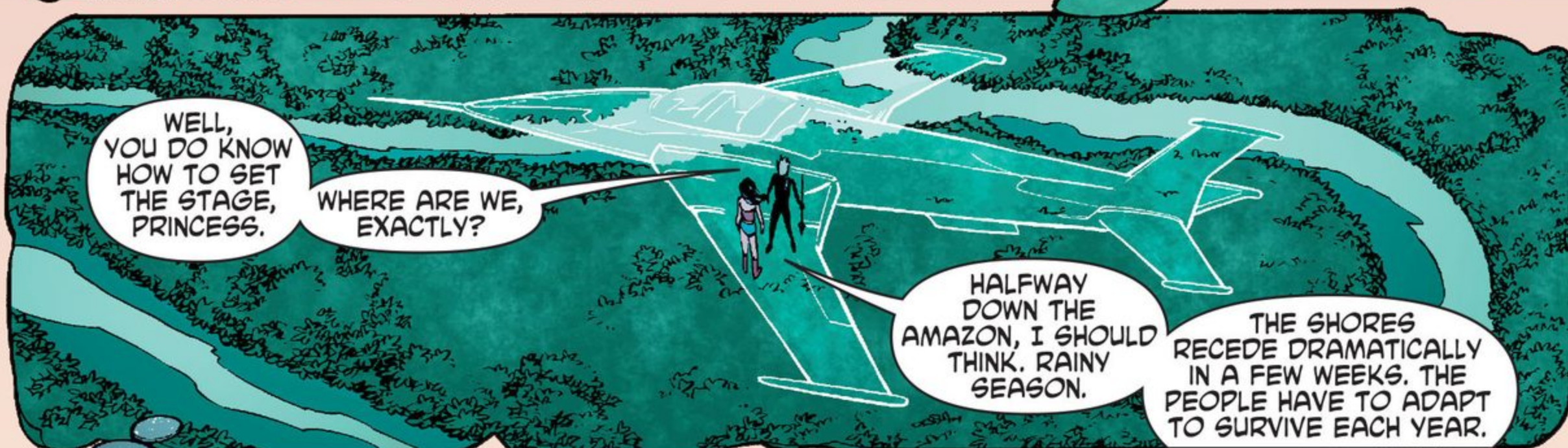
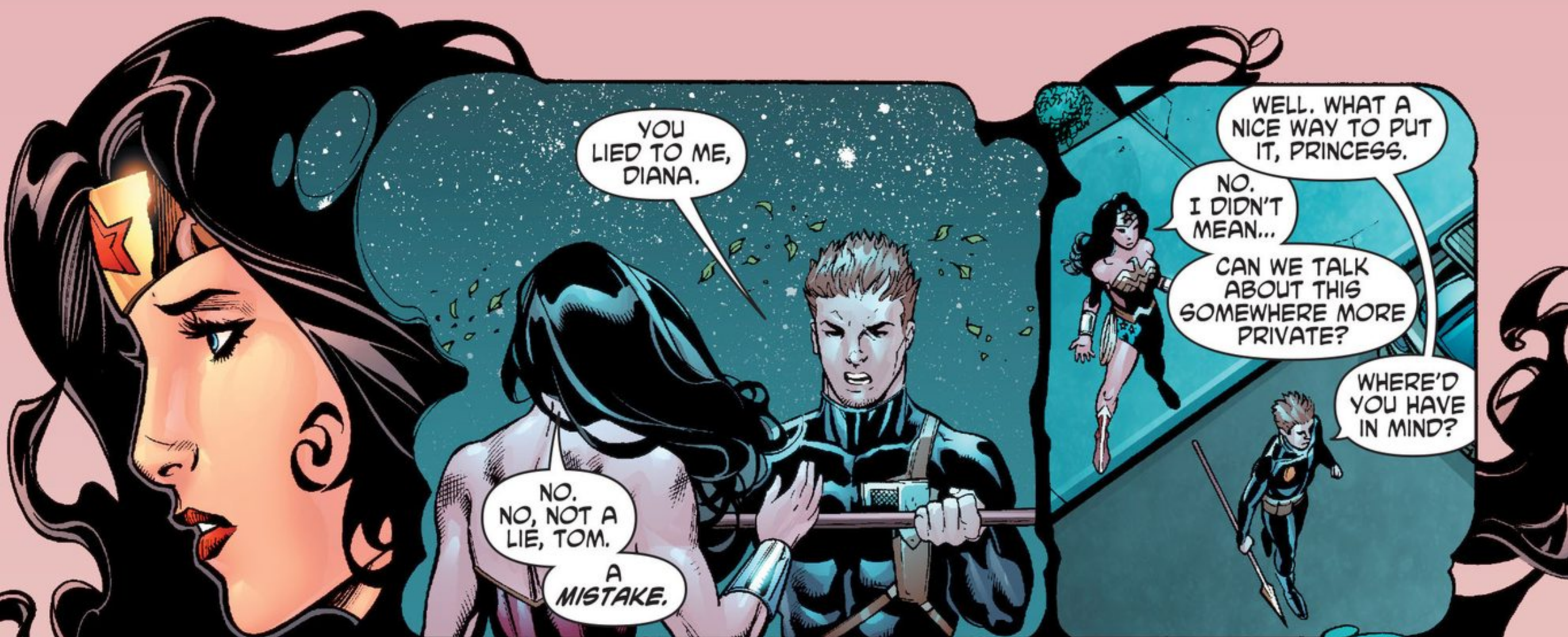
SO? IT IS TO BE EXPECTED, THEY WERE ABANDONED IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD. SURELY SOME OF THEM...

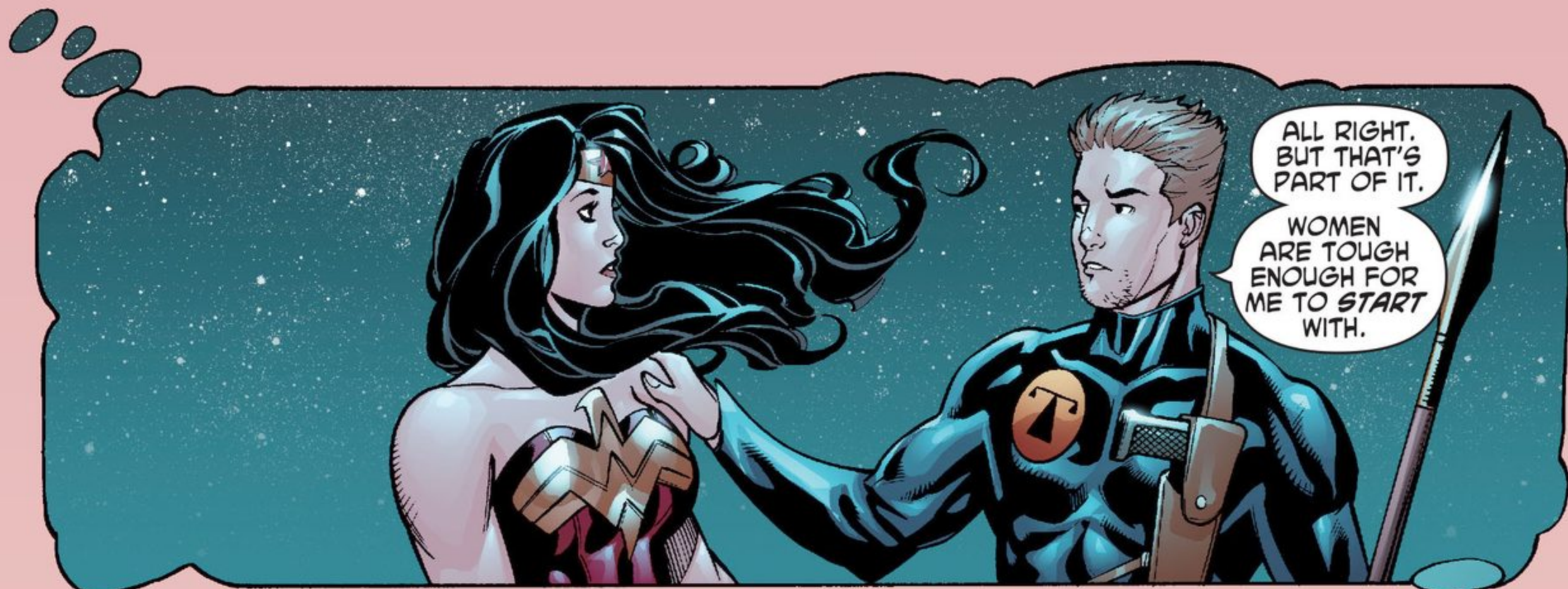


NO, LORD.

NOT ONE OF THE FIVE HAS KNOWN THE TOUCH OF A MAN.

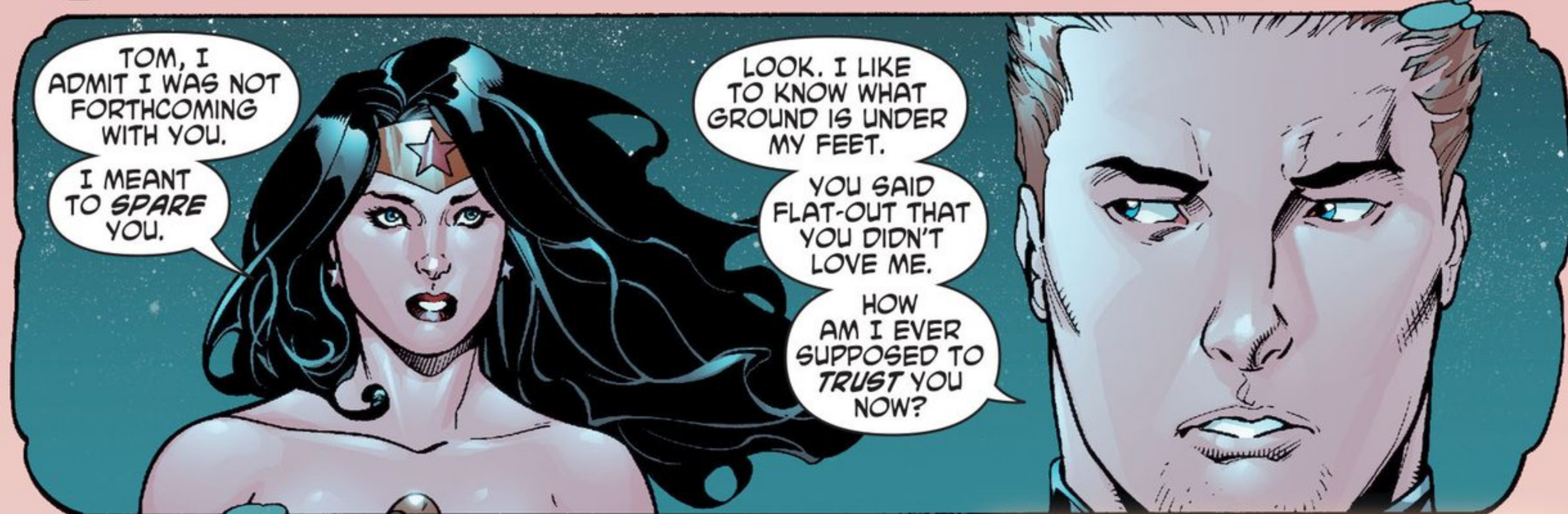






ALL RIGHT.
BUT THAT'S
PART OF IT.

WOMEN
ARE TOUGH
ENOUGH FOR
ME TO *START*
WITH.



TOM, I
ADMIT I WAS NOT
FORTHCOMING
WITH YOU.

I MEANT
TO *SPARE*
YOU.

LOOK. I LIKE
TO KNOW WHAT
GROUND IS UNDER
MY FEET.

YOU SAID
FLAT-OUT THAT
YOU DIDN'T
LOVE ME.

HOW
AM I EVER
SUPPOSED TO
TRUST YOU
NOW?



TOM.

PUT
YOUR HAND
AGAINST
MINE.

PLEASE.



WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO
SEE IS THE GREATEST
INTIMACY TWO BEINGS
CAN EVER KNOW.

LIES
DO NOT
EXIST IN THIS
COMMUNION.



THIS IS
MY SOUL, TOM.
PLEASE TREAD
CAREFULLY.

BUT ASK
WHATEVER YOU
WISH.

THIS...

...IS YOUR
SOUL?

YES. AND
A MUDDLED,
CONFUSED
PLACE IT IS,
LATELY.



CAREFUL.

FINE. OKAY.
WE'RE IN YOUR
SOUL.

SARCASM IS
A WEAPON HERE,
TOM. PLEASE.
JUST ASK YOUR
QUESTION.



WHY *ME*,
DIANA?

YOU'RE A
FREAKING
PRINCESS AND
A GODDESS
AND I...

I'M SO
NOT.



TOM, AMAZON
MATING... IT'S
NOT A DANCE,
LIKE IN YOUR
WORLD.

IT'S
MORE...

IT'S MORE LIKE
COMBAT. YOU TEST ONE
ANOTHER, AS OPPONENTS. AND
THEN YOU TEST WHAT YOU
ARE AS *ALLIES*.

COME HERE, I
WANT TO SHOW YOU
SOMETHING.



I'VE TRIED LOVE
YOUR WAY. I'VE NOT
QUITE MANAGED IT.

SO I THOUGHT
PERHAPS, I WOULD
WALK THE AMAZON
ROAD.

THE AMAZONS
DON'T WAIT FOR LOVE
TO BLOOM FULLY. WHEN
ATTRACTION STRIKES, THEY
EMBRACE IT. FOR PLAY,
OR FOREVER.



THIS IS WHAT
I FELT FOR YOU
WHEN I FIRST PLEDGED
MYSELF TO YOU. THIS
FLAME YOU SEE
BEFORE YOU.

IT'S
BEAUTIFUL.

IT'S
HONEST. IT'S
ATTRACTION.
IT'S NO MORE
THAN THAT.

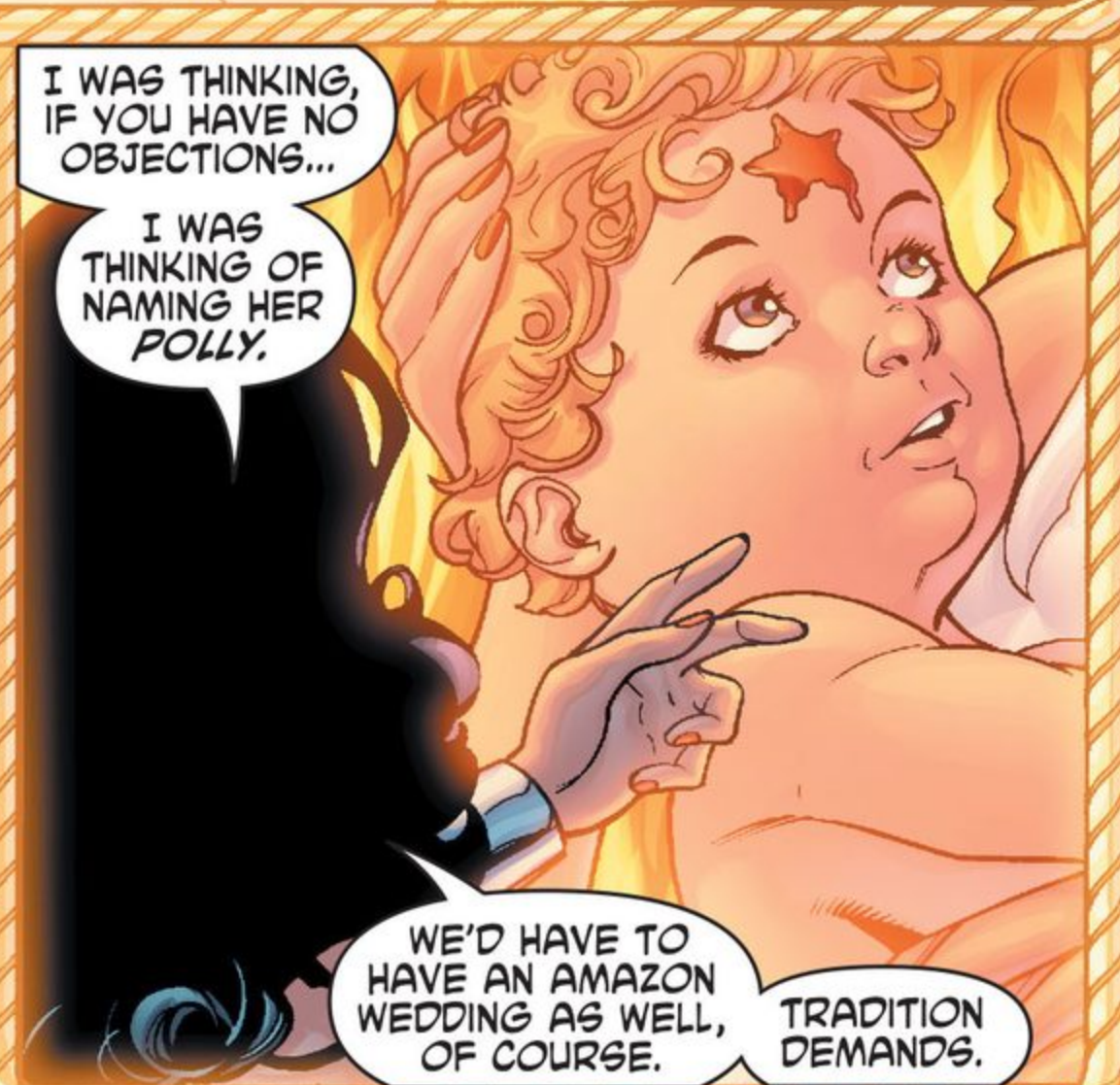
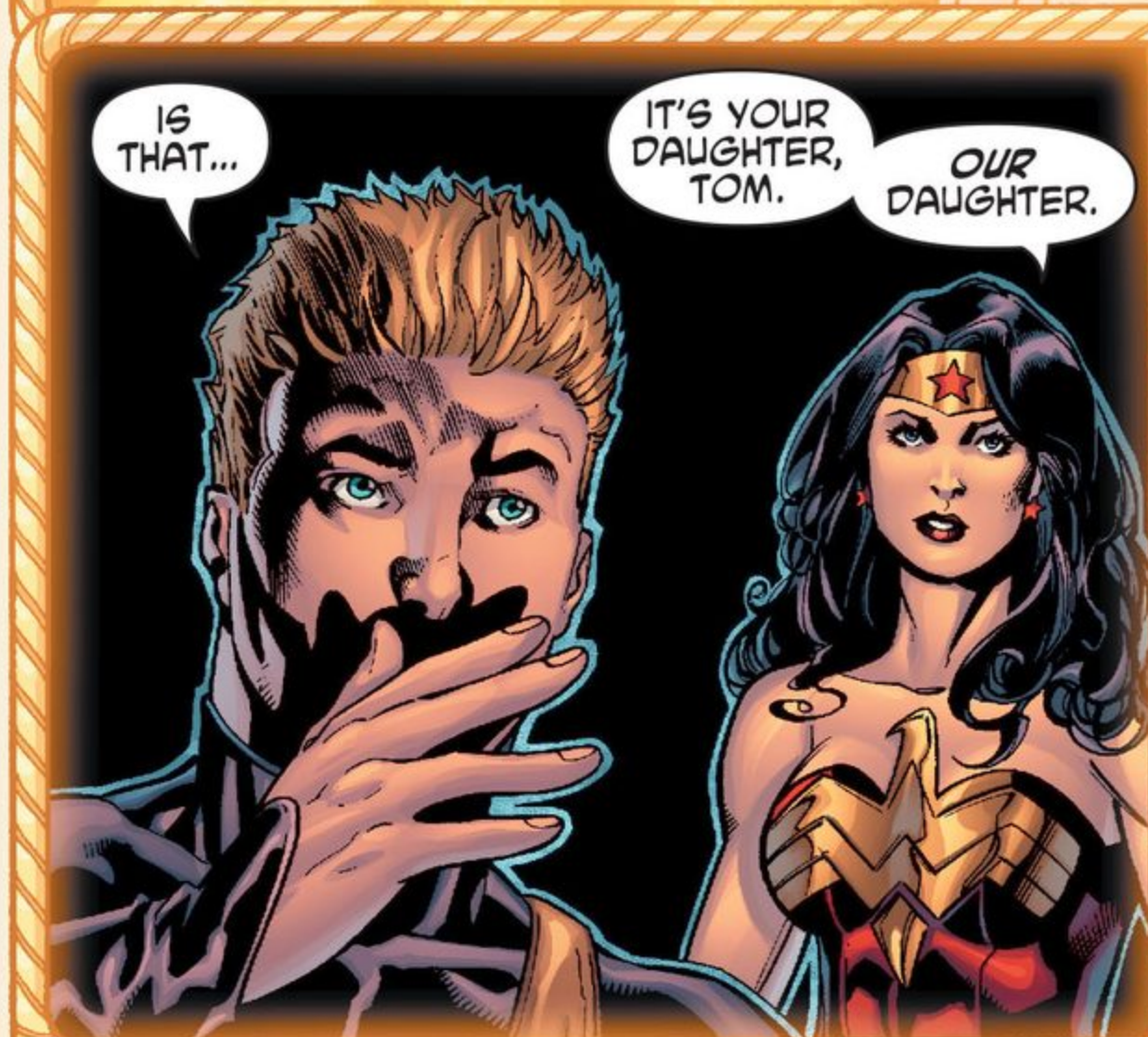
BUT
AGAIN... WHY?
WHY *ME*?



I CARRY THE UNIVERSE'S
ULTIMATE AVATAR OF TRUTH
BY MY SIDE EVERY WAKING
MOMENT, TOM. I KNEW YOUR
FRAT BOY ACT WAS A
TENDER FACADE.

LOOK
BEHIND YOU,
PLEASE.

THIS...





THIS IS WHAT...
THIS IS WHAT
THAT MONSTER,
GENOCIDE...

IT SAID YOU
WANTED TO--

GENOCIDE
SAW AN UGLIER
WORLD THAN WE
DO, TOM.

WE COULD
NOT REPOPULATE
THEMYSCIRA BY
OURSELVES,
ANYWAY.



BUT I DID FEEL
AN IMPERATIVE FOR
MY CULTURE NOT
TO BE LOST.

MY PEOPLE
WERE GONE AND
SCATTERED AND
HAD FORGOTTEN
OUR WAY.

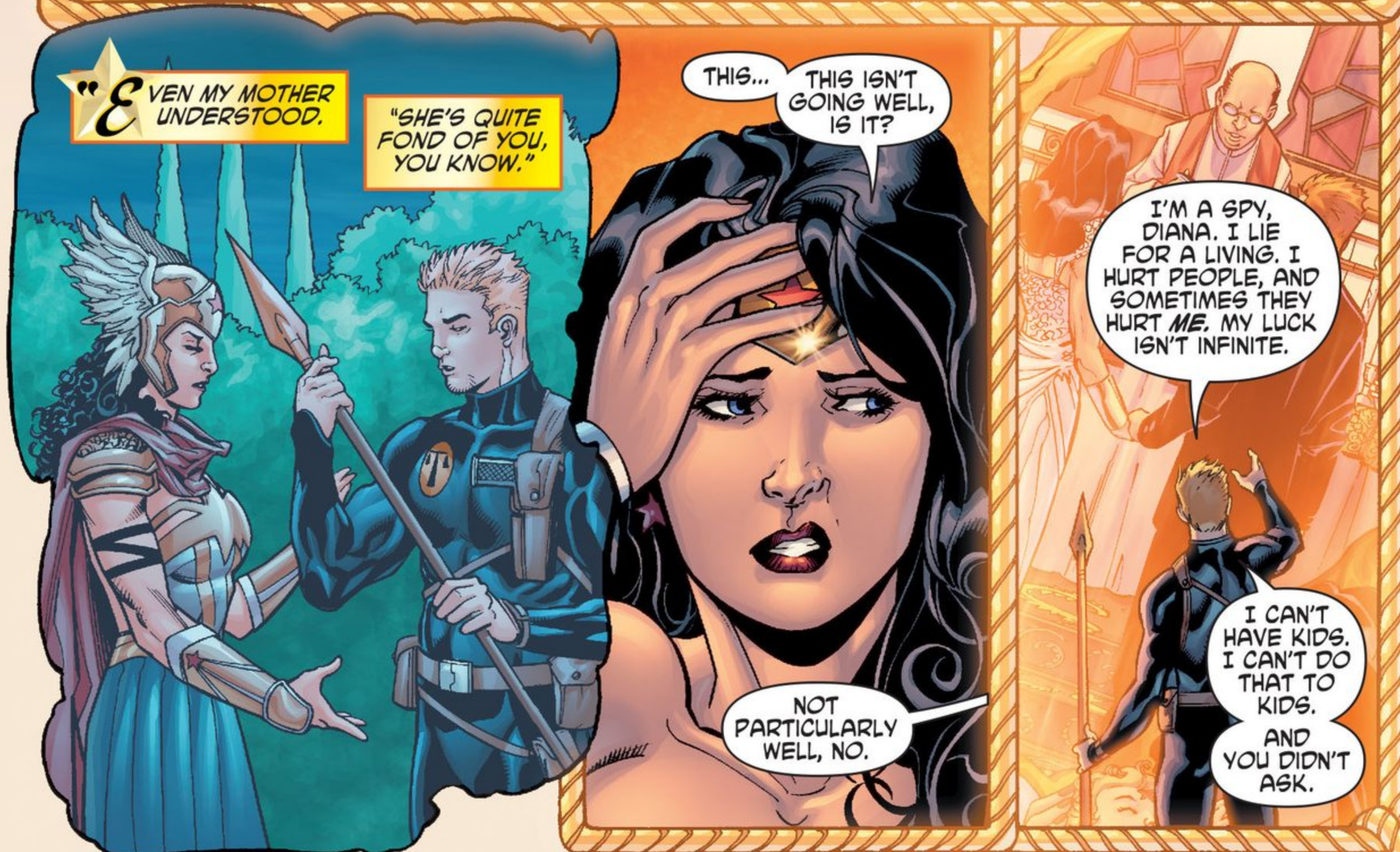
I
THOUGHT...

IF I WERE
TO DIE, IF
MY MOTHER
FADED...



I THOUGHT
YOU WOULD
CARRY ON.

TO TEACH
THE LAST
AMAZON WHAT
HER PEOPLE
MEANT.



"EVEN MY MOTHER
UNDERSTOOD.

"SHE'S QUITE
FOND OF YOU,
YOU KNOW."

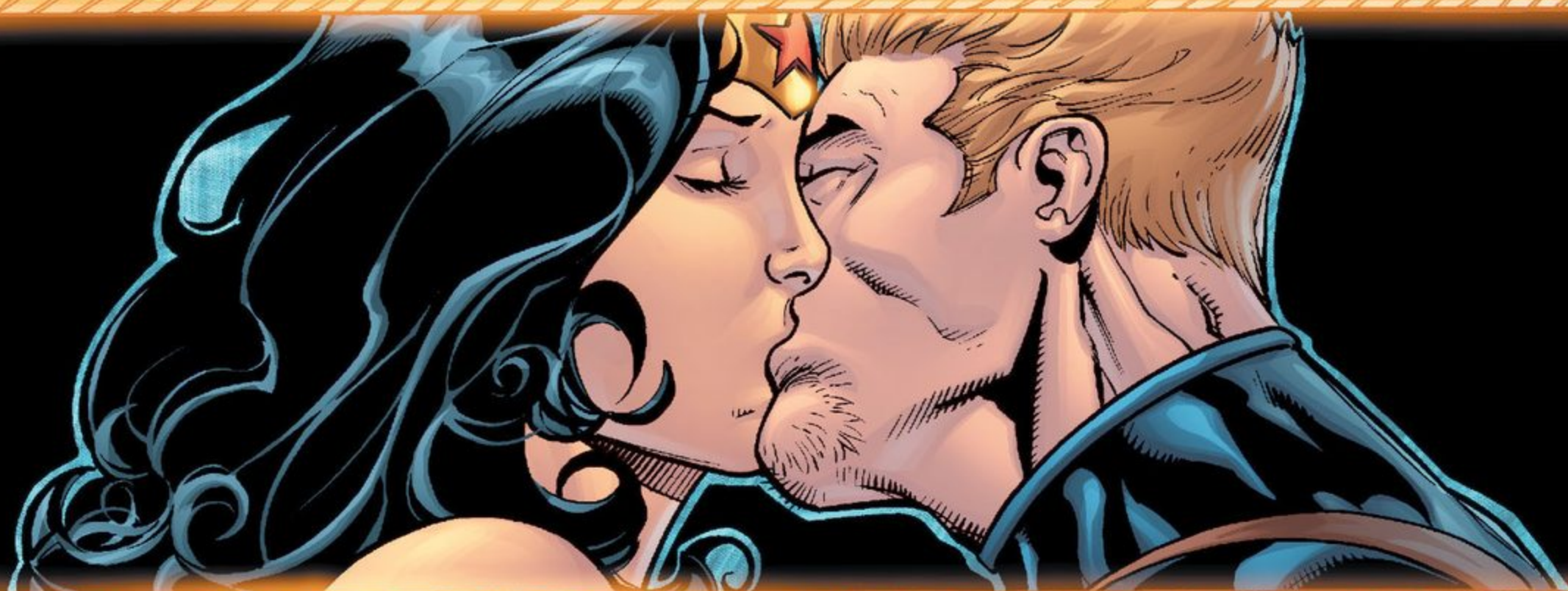
THIS...

THIS ISN'T
GOING WELL,
IS IT?

NOT
PARTICULARLY
WELL, NO.

I'M A SPY,
DIANA. I LIE
FOR A LIVING. I
HURT PEOPLE, AND
SOMETIMES THEY
HURT ME. MY LUCK
ISN'T INFINITE.

I CAN'T
HAVE KIDS.
I CAN'T DO
THAT TO
KIDS.
AND YOU DIDN'T
ASK.



AND I...
... I DON'T BELONG HERE.



GET US DOWN, PLEASE.



TOM, CAN'T WE TRY TO...

DOWN.

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AMAZON.

I GET THE IRONY.

RIGHT HERE'LL BE FINE.



EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.

NOW THAT WE ARE WHAT WE ARE.



PERHAPS THE PROBLEM IS WITHIN ME...

WOW. THAT'S QUITE A HITCH. YOU DO KNOW WHERE YOU WENT WRONG, YES?

EVERYWHERE?

JUST SO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

I STILL, WHATEVER, HATE YOU AND ALL THAT BOTHER.

BUT I'VE BEEN THERE, SISTER.

... THAT I SHOULD END UP WITH MY ONLY CONFIDANTE BEING SOMEONE WHO WANTS ME DEAD.

OF COURSE, THAT IS A LARGE SORORITY IN ITSELF.

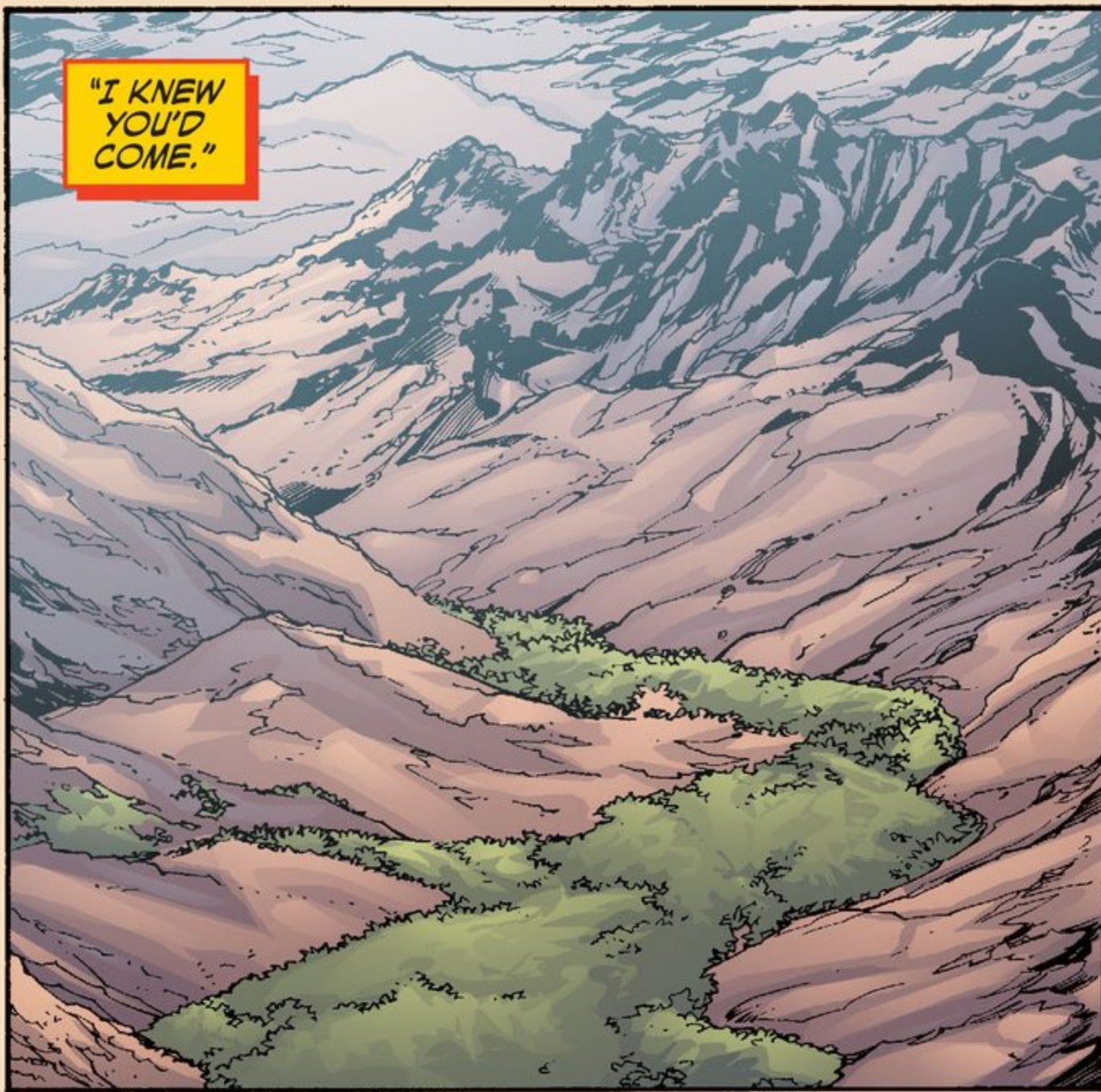
WHAT THE HELL?

ZEUS HAS CALLED TO HIS CHAMPION, WARRIOR.

YOU WILL REMEMBER YOUR VOW TO ME!

MY FATHER'S BLOOD MUST BE PAID FOR.

WELL. HOW LATE DO YOU THINK THEY SERVE EGGS FLORENTINE?



"I KNEW
YOU'D
COME."



ZEUS FORETOLD
THAT YOU WOULD
INTERFERE WITH
OUR ACTIONS.

YOU
LAMENT WAR,
AND YET YOU FIGHT
US WHEN WE TRY TO
STOP A LARGER,
AGGRESSIVE NATION
FROM CONQUERING
A SMALLER ONE.

YOUR TIME IN
AMERICA HAS LEFT
YOU *CONFUSED*.



YOUR
METHODS
INCLUDE KILLING
SOLDIERS ON
BOTH SIDES,
ACHILLES.

I AM
NOT CONFUSED
ABOUT THAT EVEN
REMOVELY.



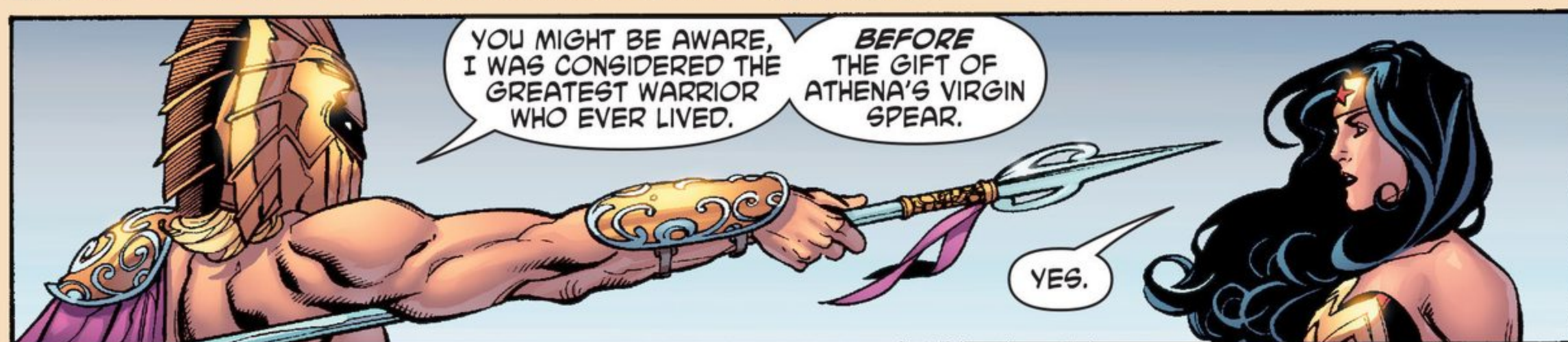
I RESPECT
YOU, DIANA. I
HAVE NO WISH TO
KILL YOU.

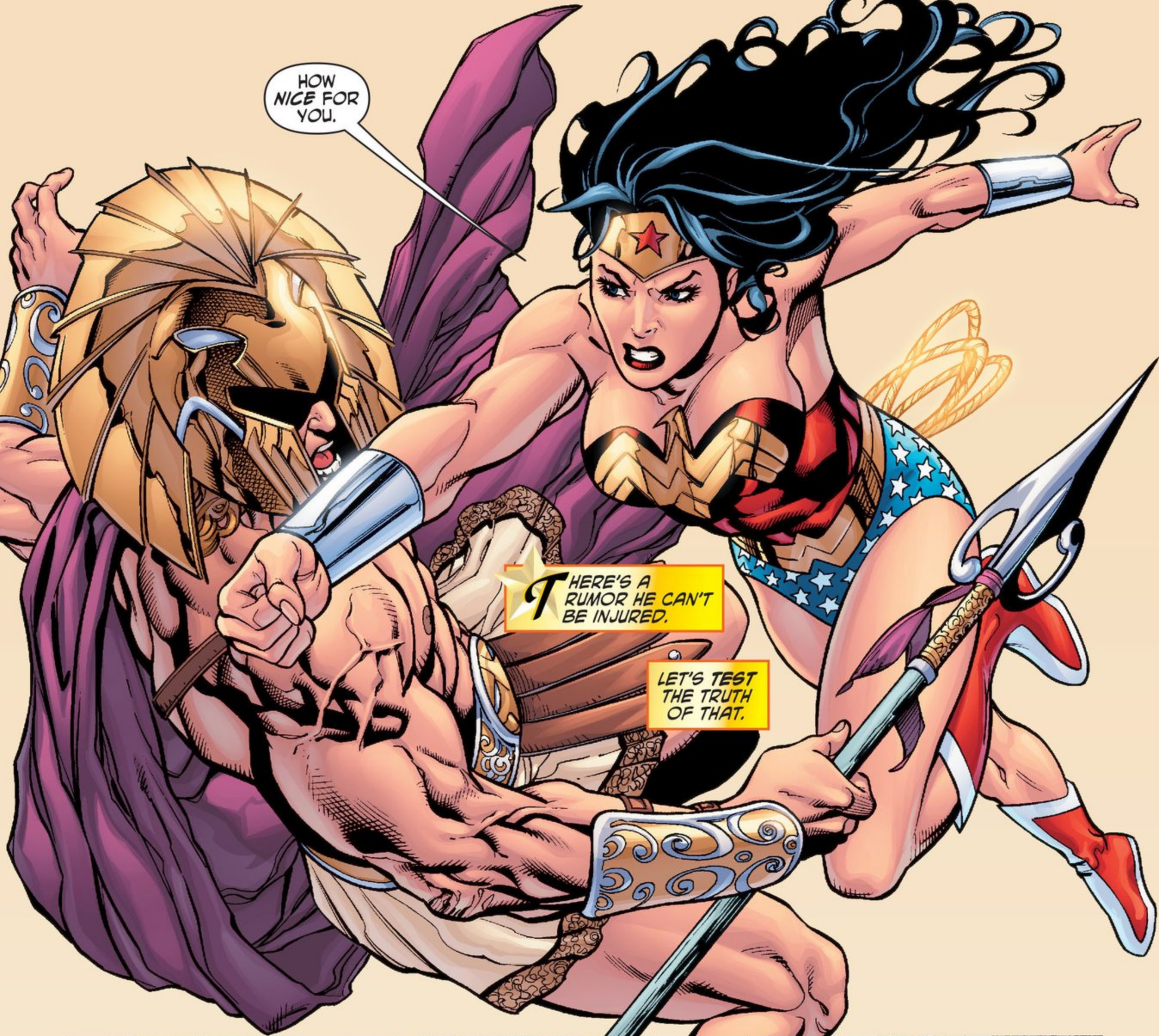
BUT I, LIKE
MY ARMY BEHIND
ME, FOLLOW THE
*WILL OF OUR
GODS.*

WILL
YOU STAND
AGAINST US
ALL?

ALONE?
PERHAPS
NOT.

FORTUNATELY...





HOW
NICE FOR
YOU.

THERE'S A
RUMOR HE CAN'T
BE INJURED.

LET'S TEST
THE TRUTH
OF THAT.



LAST TIME
WE FOUGHT, HE
WAS ABLE TO
ANTICIPATE MY
MOVES, DEFTLY
AVOIDING
MY BLOWS.

SO THIS TIME,
I'M HANGING
ON TO HIM.



"GREATEST
WARRIOR WHO
EVER LIVED."

REALLY.



UNNGH.

AWAY.

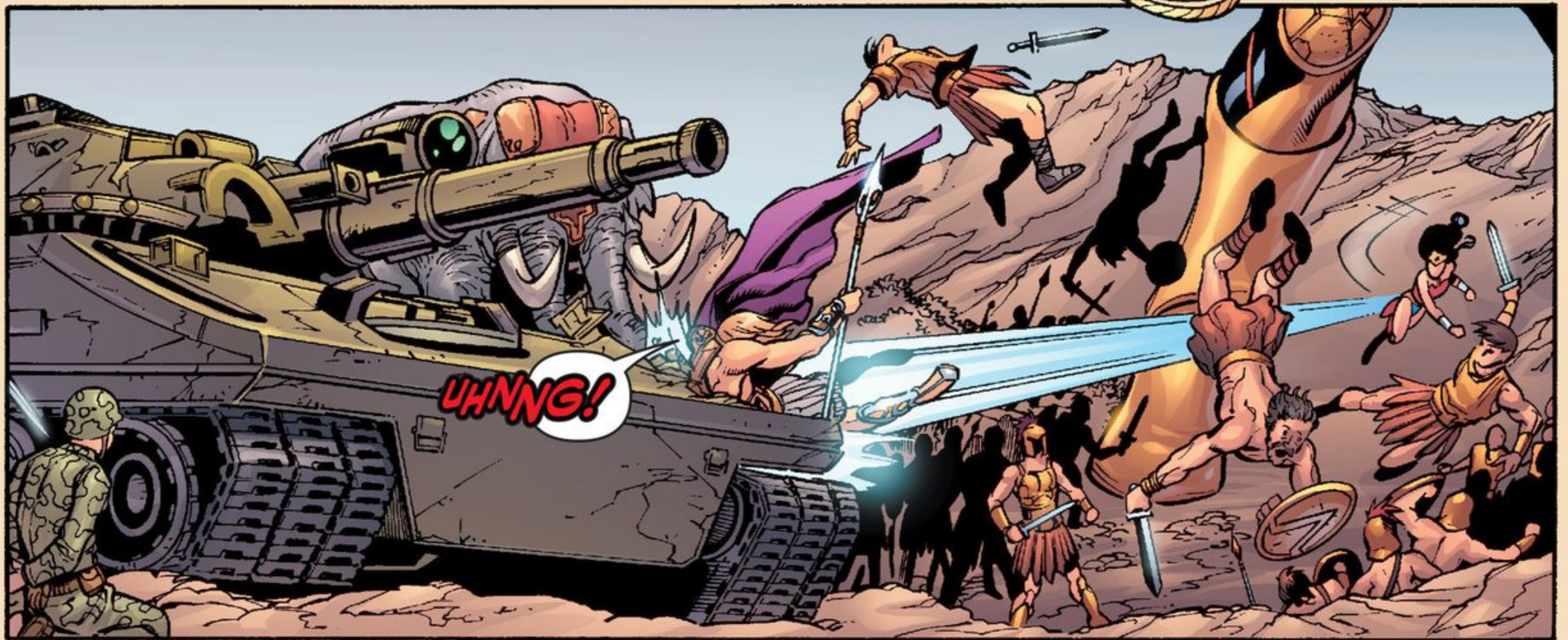
ALTHOUGH
I MUST SAY,
I'M NOT A
FAN OF THAT
SPEAR.



YOU'D THINK ATHENA WOULD HAVE GIVEN IT TO ME, AFTER ALL.

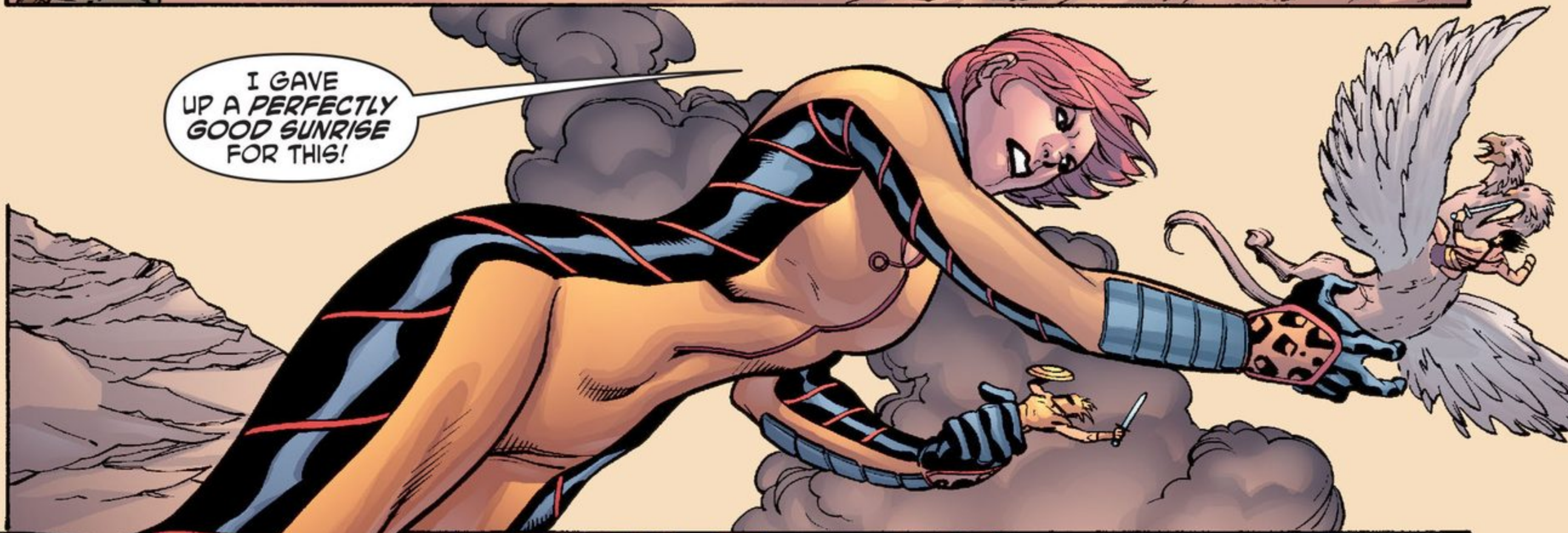
WELL...

I HAVE ENOUGH JEWELRY ALREADY, I SUPPOSE.



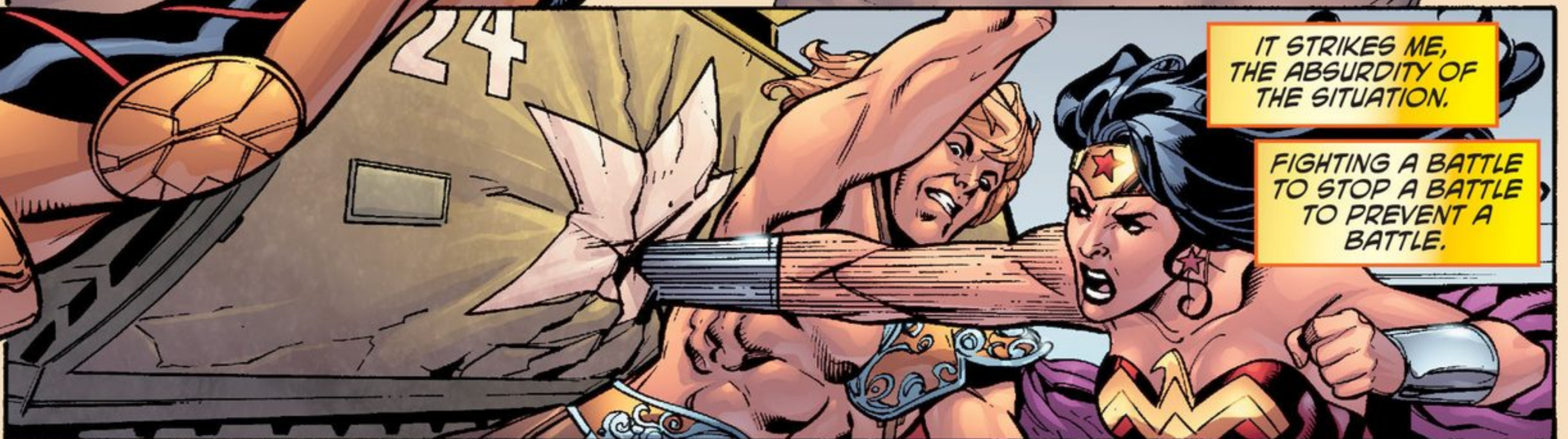
UHNNG!

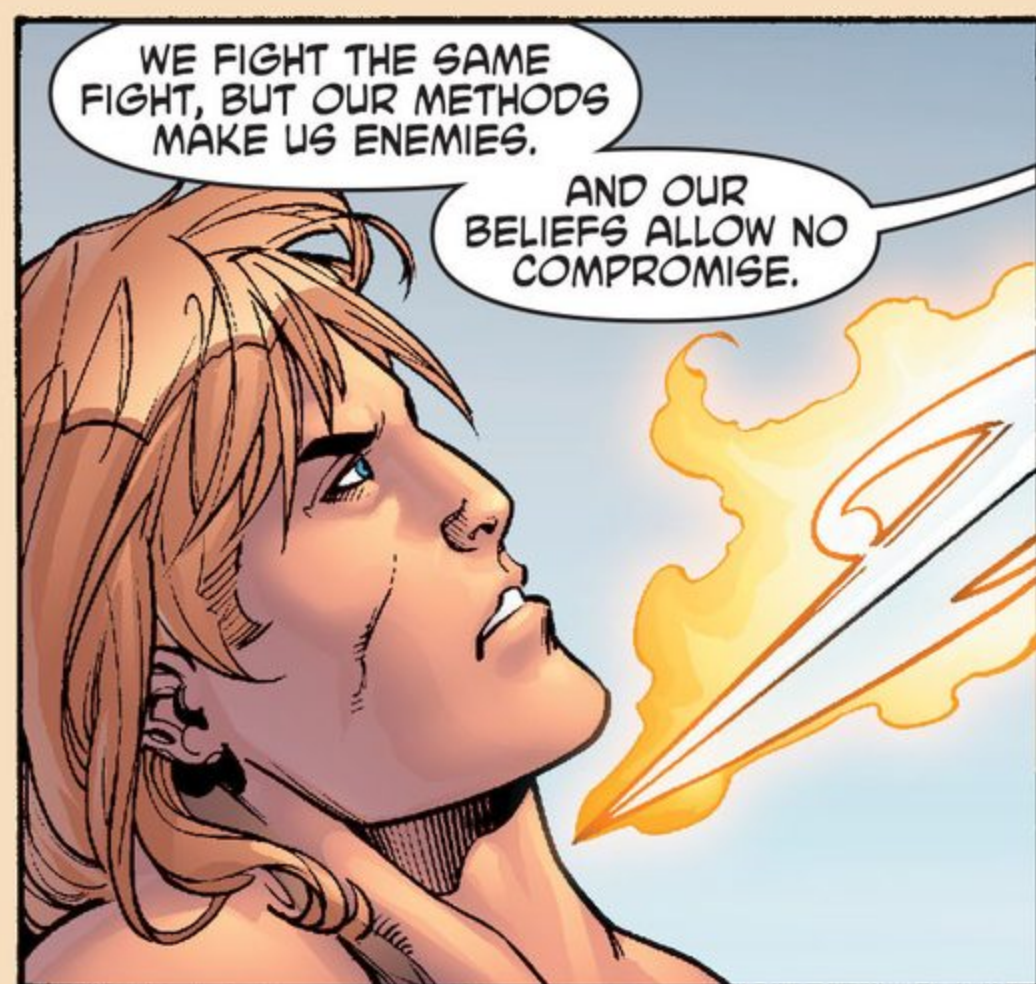
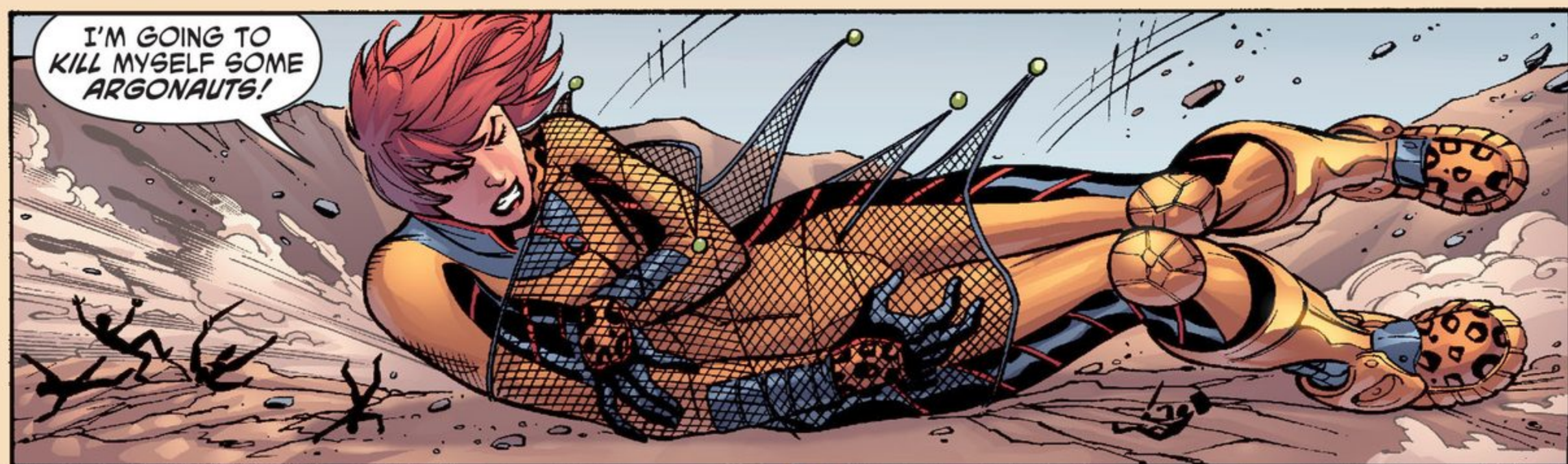
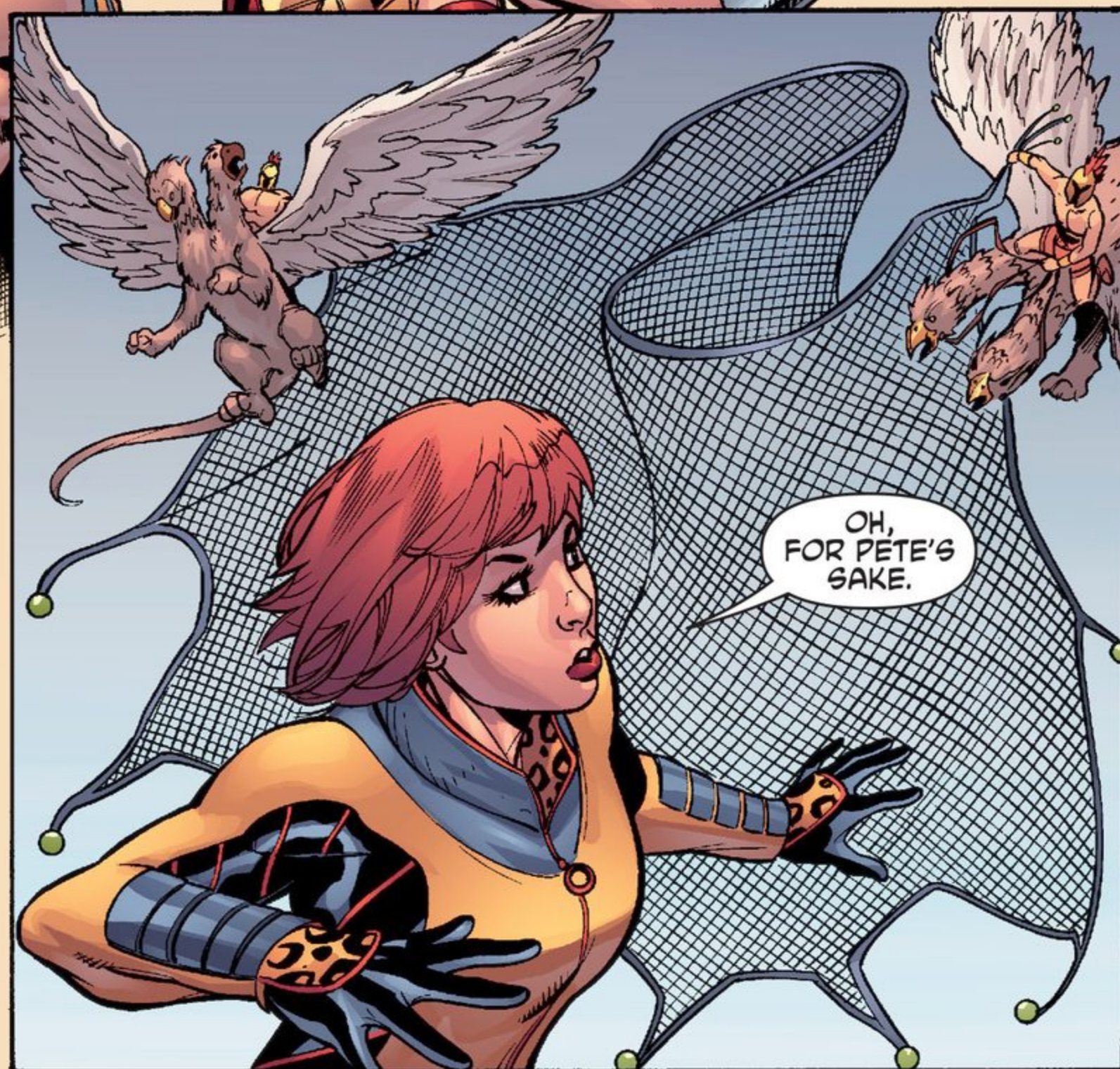
I GAVE UP A PERFECTLY GOOD SUNRISE FOR THIS!

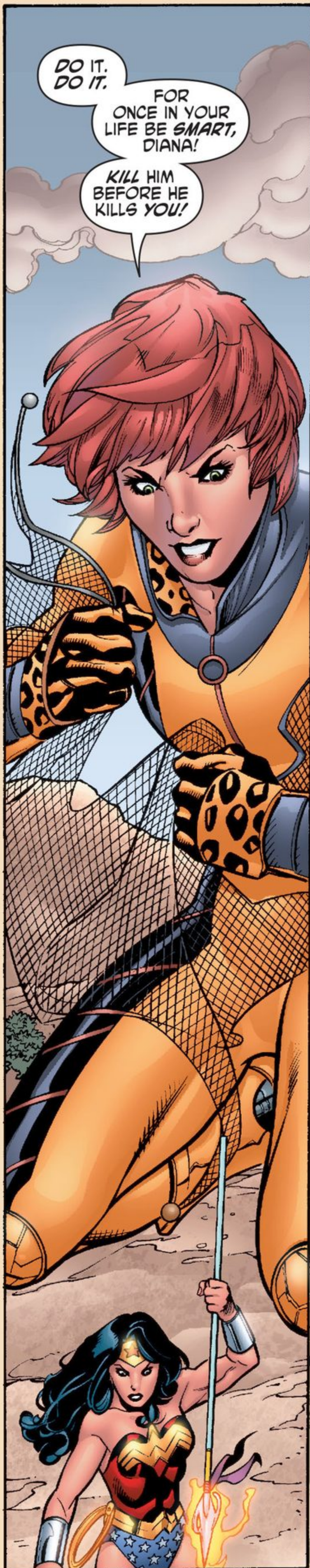


IT STRIKES ME, THE ABSURDITY OF THE SITUATION.

FIGHTING A BATTLE TO STOP A BATTLE TO PREVENT A BATTLE.



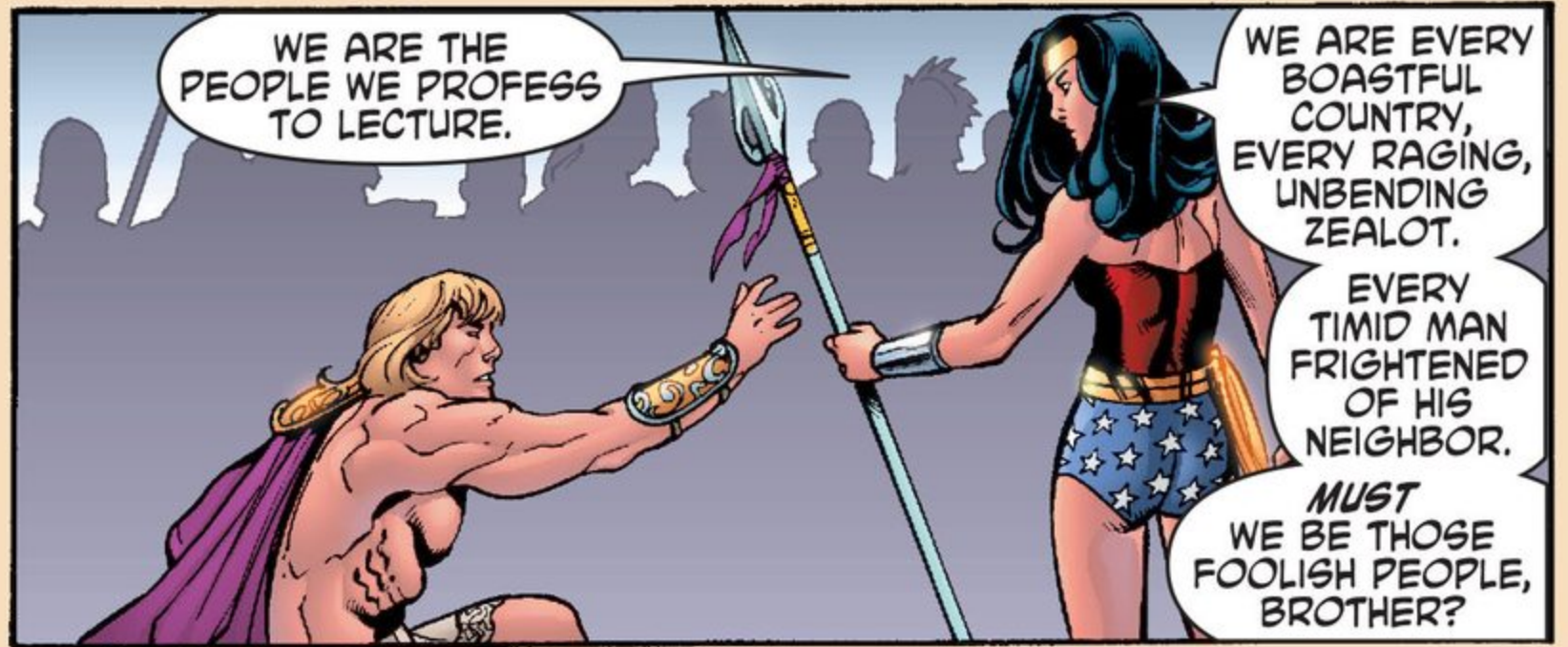




DO IT.
DO IT.

FOR
ONCE IN YOUR
LIFE BE *SMART*,
DIANA!

KILL HIM
BEFORE HE
KILLS YOU!



WE ARE THE
PEOPLE WE PROFESS
TO LECTURE.

WE ARE EVERY
BOASTFUL
COUNTRY,
EVERY RAGING,
UNBENDING
ZEALOT.

EVERY
TIMID MAN
FRIGHTENED
OF HIS
NEIGHBOR.

MUST
WE BE THOSE
FOOLISH PEOPLE,
BROTHER?



ZEUS HAS
DRUNK OCEANS OF
WARRIOR'S BLOOD,
ACHILLES.

I BEG YOU.
DEFY HIM.

LET'S WAGE
AN *ABSENCE*
OF WAR.



I...

I CANNOT.
I'M SORRY.

UNLIKE
SOME, I
KNOW MY
DUTY.



WHEN NEXT WE MEET,
DIANA... YOU WILL NOT
INTERFERE.

BECAUSE WE
HAVE A TACTICAL
ADVANTAGE.

YOUR
MOTHER,
PRINCESS. IN A
HANGMAN'S
NOOSE.

THIS
WAR IS
OVER,
DIANA.

YOU
LOSE.

I WAS RIGHT.
IT WAS A BAD
EVENING.

BUT THE MORNING
AFTER IS MURDER.

NEXT: WONDER WOMAN VS. DONNA TROY!



37
DEC '09

GAIL
SIMONE
AARON
LOPRESTI
MATT
RYAN

Wonder Woman







WARKILLER PART 2 OF 4 OF TWO MINDS



GAIL SIMONE//WRITER BERNARD CHANG//ARTIST HI-FI//COLORIST
TRAVIS LANHAM//LETTERER AARON LOPRESTI AND HI-FI//COVER
SEAN RYAN//ASSOC. EDITOR ELISABETH GEHRLIN//EDITOR
WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON



OH.



WERE YOU
LOOKING FOR
THIS?

DO YOU
KNOW, I'VE OFTEN
WONDERED WHAT
IT MIGHT TASTE
LIKE.



WAR IS TRUTH,
PRINCESS.

BY ALL
RIGHTS, THIS
SHOULD
BELONG TO
ME.

A BIT
COPPERY. LIKE
A WOMAN'S
BLOOD.



I AM
DREAMING.

OR
I AM.

HAVE YOU
GIVEN THAT
POSSIBILITY
ANY SERIOUS
THOUGHT?



PERHAPS I KILLED YOU ON THE
SHORE THAT DAY. PERHAPS I WRUNG
YOUR PRETTY NECK UNTIL MY PALMS
TOUCHED AROUND THE BROKEN
JANGLE OF YOUR SPINE.

AND MY LAST
GIFT TO YOU WAS THE
ILLUSION THAT YOU HAD
MURDERED ME IN
THE SAND.



NO.

I
AM MOST
DEFINITELY
FALLEN.





I WANT YOU TO CONSIDER, DIANA. I WILL STILL WIN.

YOU WILL DIE IN COMBAT.

AS WILL MOST OF YOUR "SISTERS." AND YOUR "FRIENDS." EVEN YOUR BRAVE AND FOOLISH GORILLAS, SLEEPING DOWNSTAIRS.



ALL YOUR STRUGGLES. EVERYONE WHO LOVES AND FOLLOWS YOU.

THEY WILL ALL DIE BY MY HAND.

BECAUSE, FOR ALL YOUR TALK OF PEACE...



...IT IS THE GOD OF WAR THAT YOU LOVE AND SERVE BEST.

AND I AM NOT YET DONE WITH YOU, PRINCESS.



ONE OF MY BEST AGENTS UNKNOWINGLY IS BETRAYING YOU AS WE SPEAK.

ACHILLES?

NO. NOT ACHILLES.



I LEAVE YOU THAT GIFT AS A REMINDER WHOSE PROGENY YOU REALLY ARE.

THEMYSCIRA FALLS, DIANA. AND YOUR MOTHER AND SISTERS, AS WELL.

HIDING HERE WILL NOT SAVE YOUR MOTHER.

WILL YOU DO NOTHING?



WILL YOU *BE* NOTHING?



IT'S GETTING WORSE.

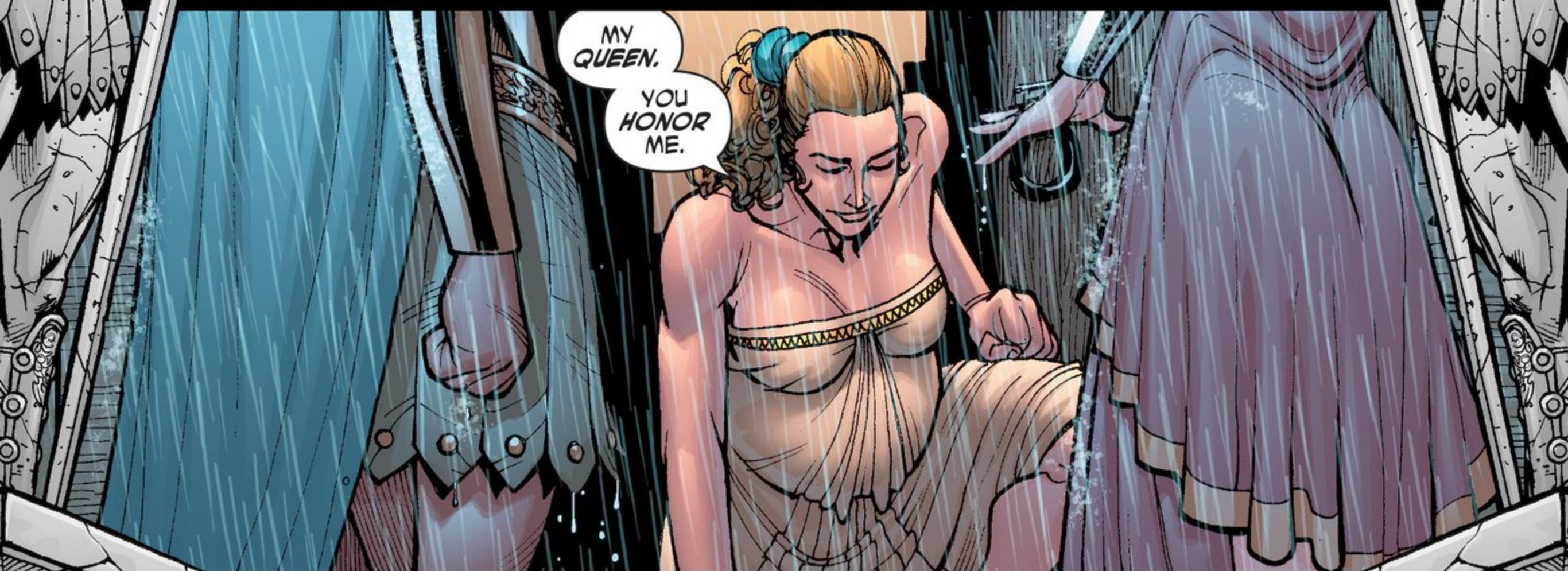


UNSEASONAL STORMS. SINCE THAT PRANCING IDIOT WAS MADE KING--

WE CAN'T BLAME THE WEATHER ON ACHILLES, PHILLIPUS.

I CAN AND WILL, MY QUEEN.

ALKISTIS WAITS INSIDE.



MY QUEEN.

YOU HONOR ME.



PLEASE. STAND. BETTER, SIT.

YOU NEEDN'T BOW TO ME, AND THE...

YES. MY *BABY*.

I CONFESS I LOVE TO SAY IT.

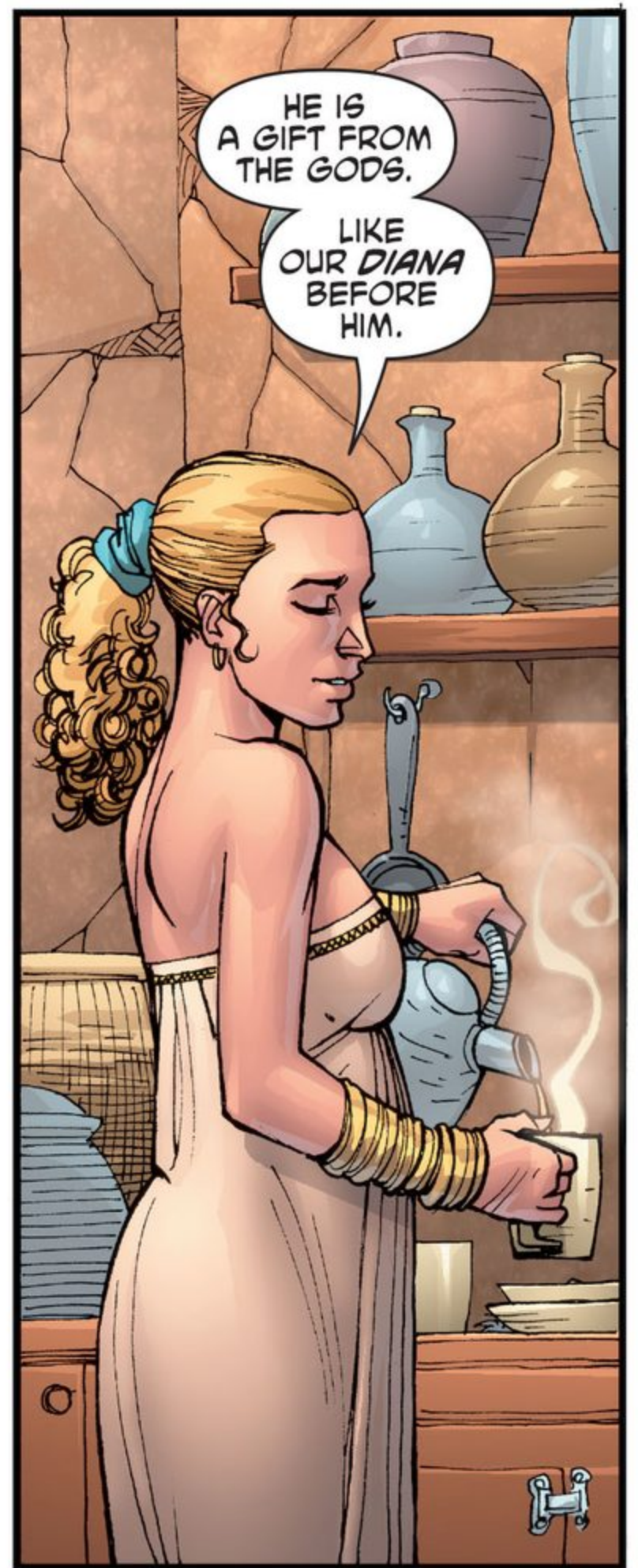


MAY I...?

I CAN... I THINK I HEAR IT.

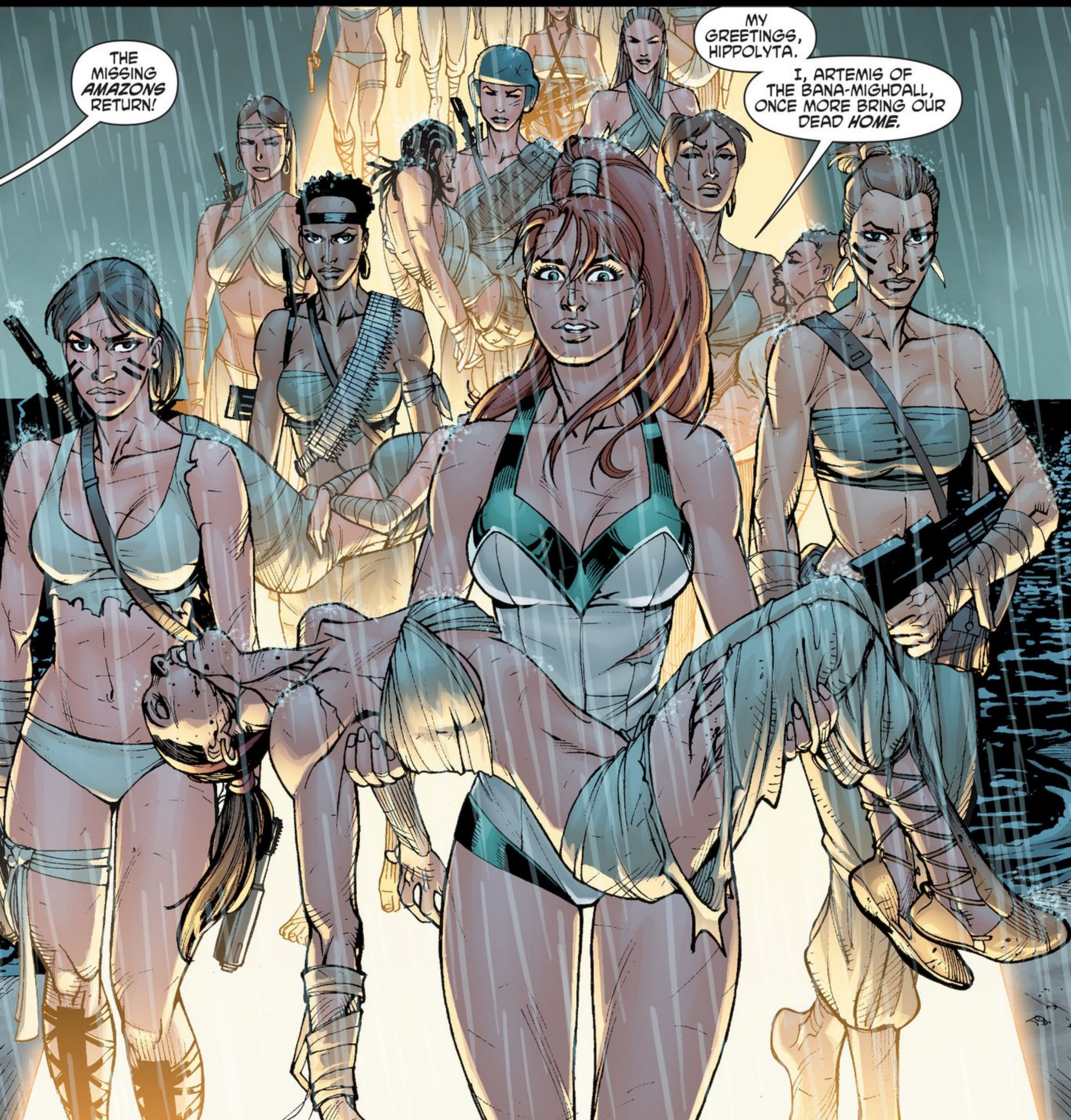
MY SON IS STRONG.

HE RECOGNIZES HIS QUEEN.





THE
IMPRISONED
ONES. THEY,
HIPPOLYTA.



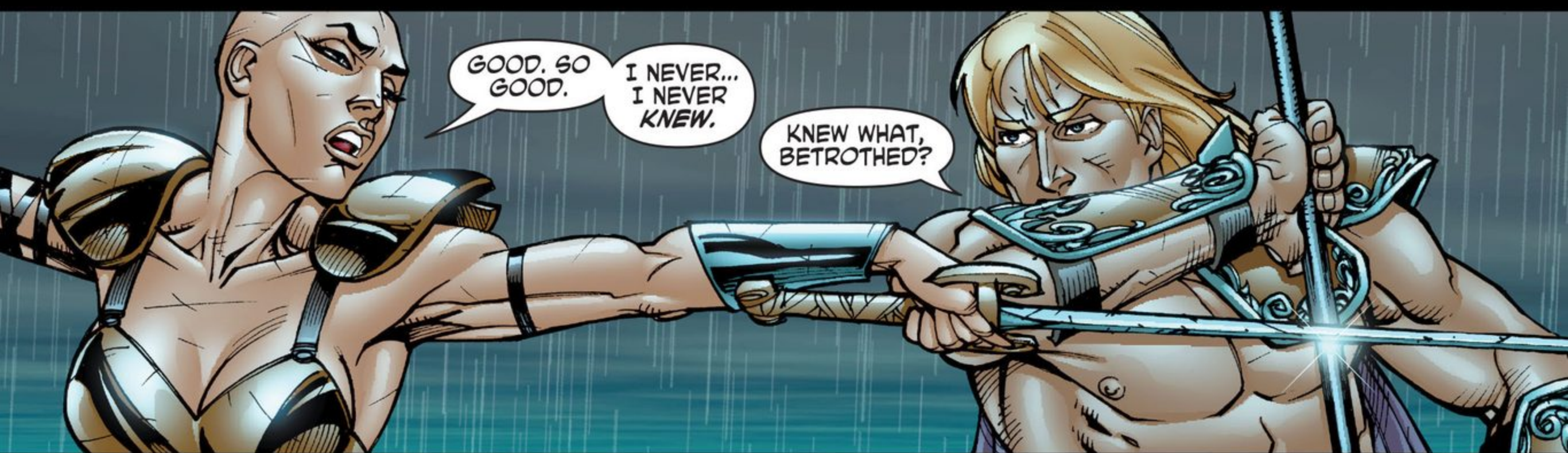
THE
MISSING
AMAZONS
RETURN!

MY
GREETINGS,
HIPPOLYTA.

I, ARTEMIS OF
THE BANA-MIGHDALL,
ONCE MORE BRING OUR
DEAD HOME.



GODS.



GOOD. SO GOOD.

I NEVER...
I NEVER KNEW.

KNEW WHAT, BETROTHED?



MMMMM.

THAT
IT COULD BE
LIKE THIS.

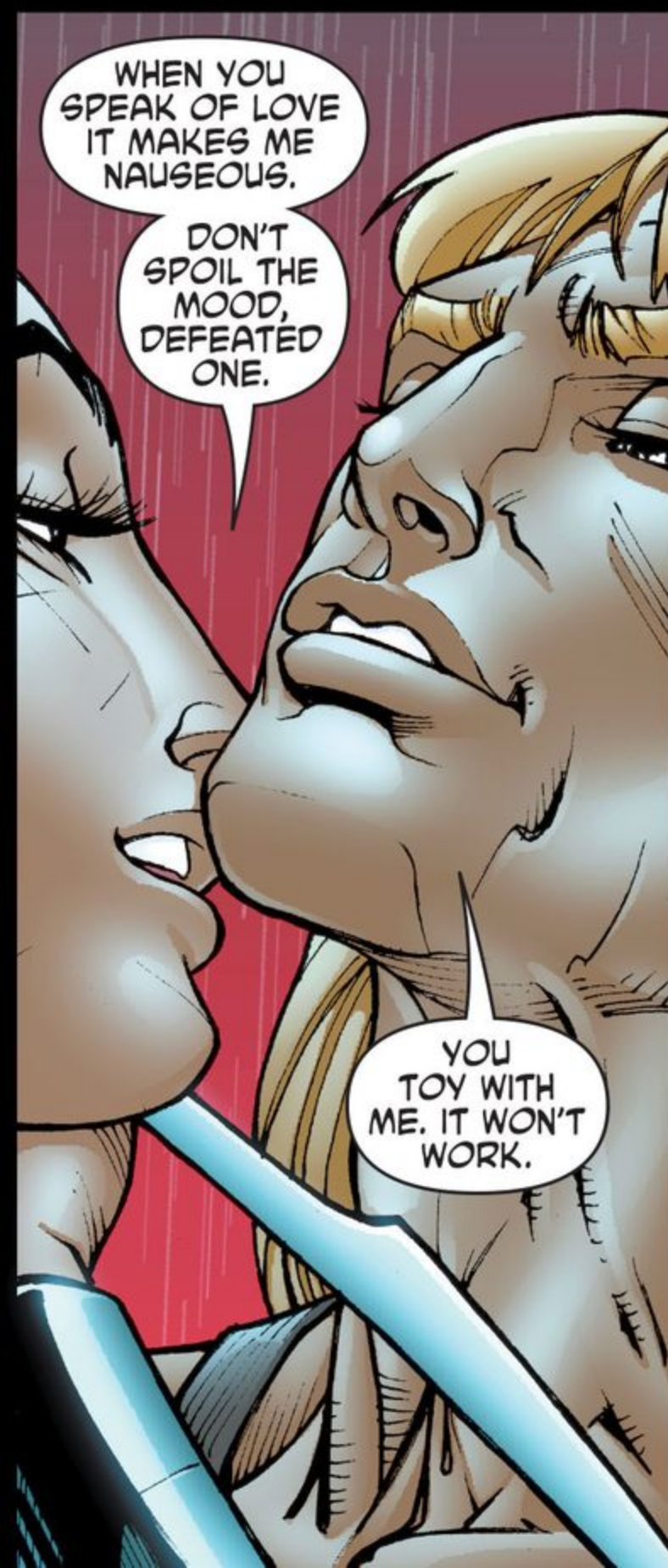


IT'S...

I DON'T
KNOW WHY I
WAITED.

AH.

I CONFESS
I DO NOT YET
UNDERSTAND
AMAZON LOVE
PLAY.



WHEN YOU
SPEAK OF LOVE
IT MAKES ME
NAUSEOUS.

DON'T
SPOIL THE
MOOD,
DEFEATED
ONE.

YOU
TOY WITH
ME. IT WON'T
WORK.



NNGG.

I WONDER
WHAT THE FRUIT
OF OUR UNION
WILL BE.

LIKE
ALL SUCH
UNIONS...

...SHAME AND
EMBARRASSMENT,
I SUSPECT.

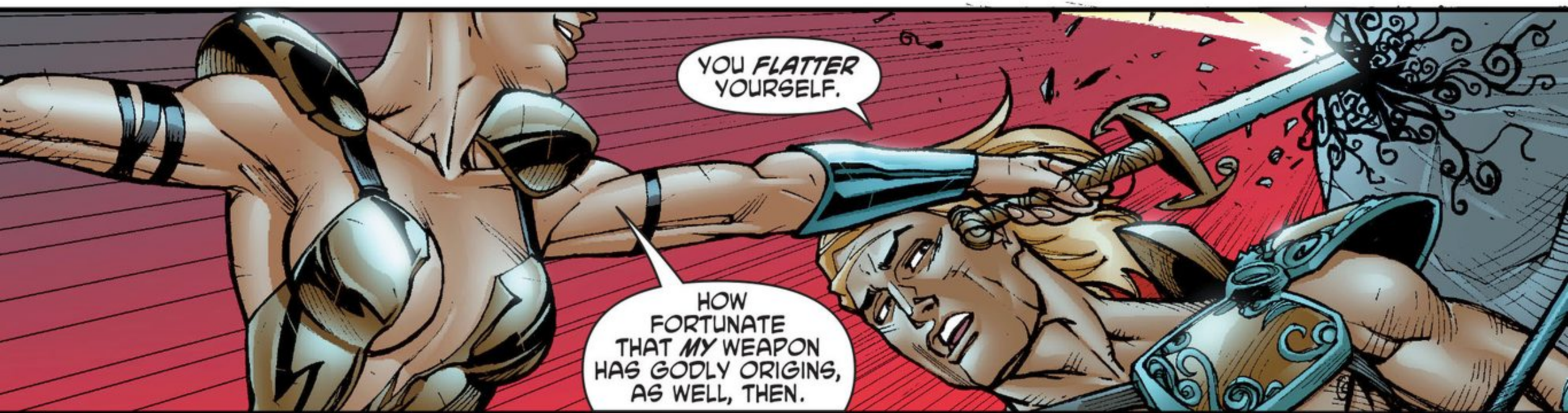
UHH...

YIELD.

THE
VIRGIN SPEAR WAS
MADE FOR ATHENA
HERSELF.

MY
BREASTPLATE.

NOW YOU
TOY WITH ME.



YOU FLATTER
YOURSELF.

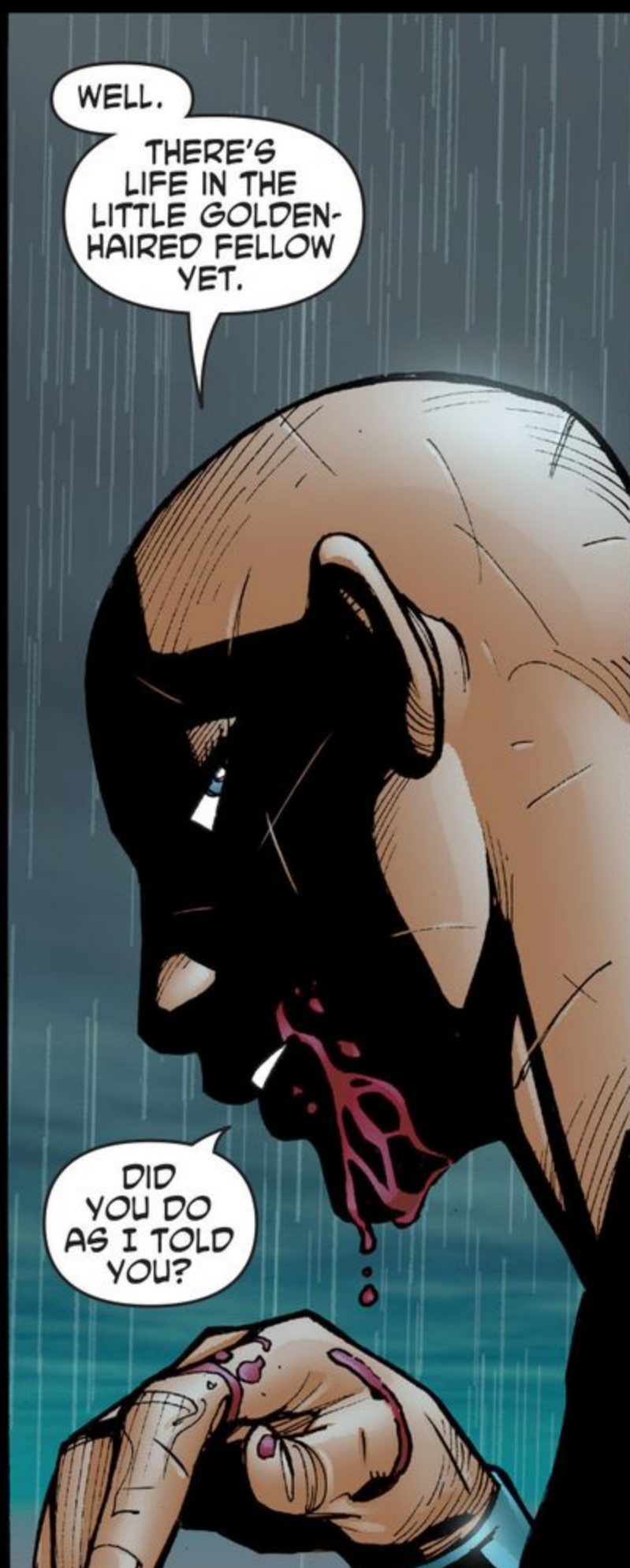
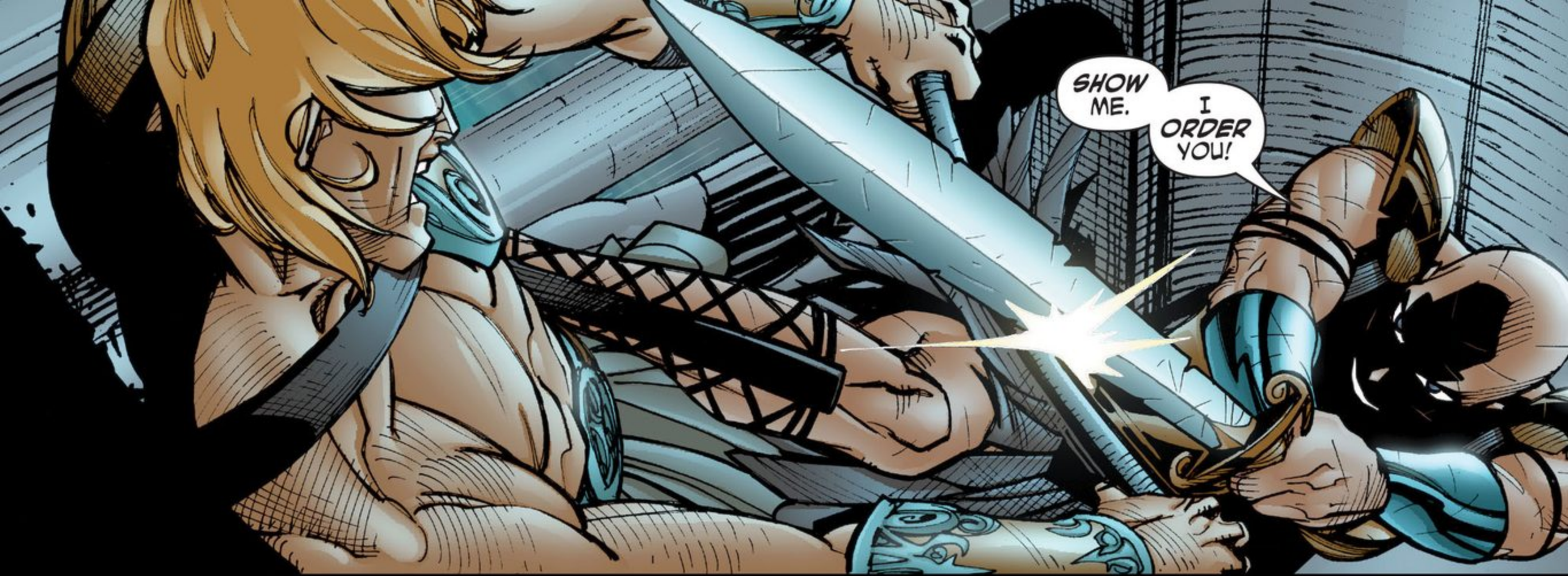
HOW
FORTUNATE
THAT *MY* WEAPON
HAS GODLY ORIGINS,
AS WELL, THEN.

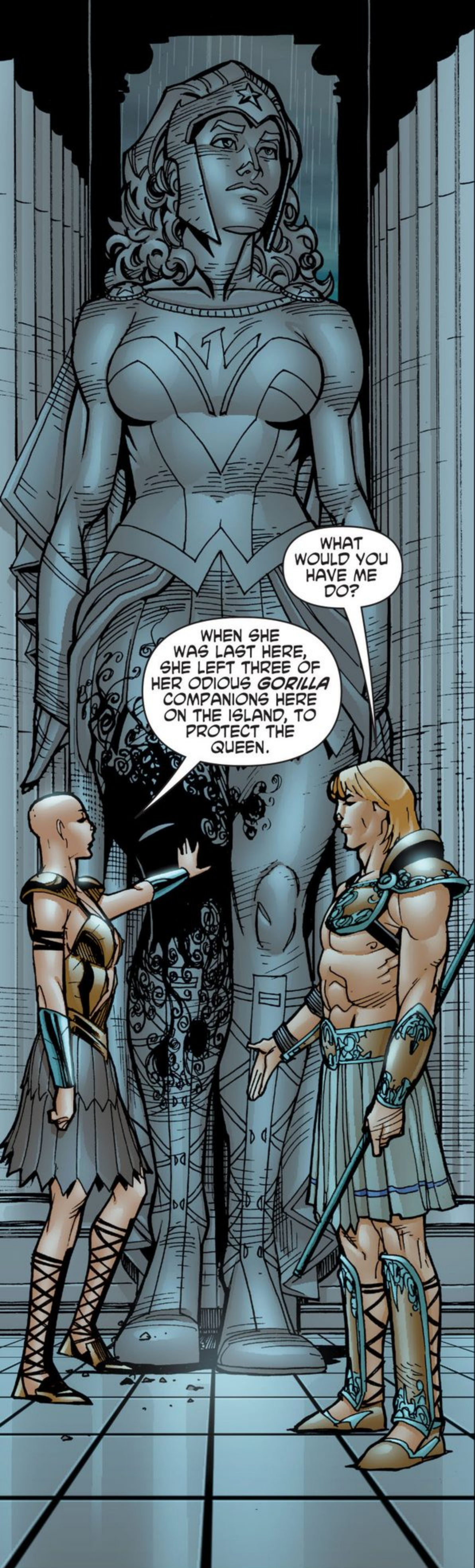
LET'S HAVE IT
THEN. GIVE ME YOUR
BEST.

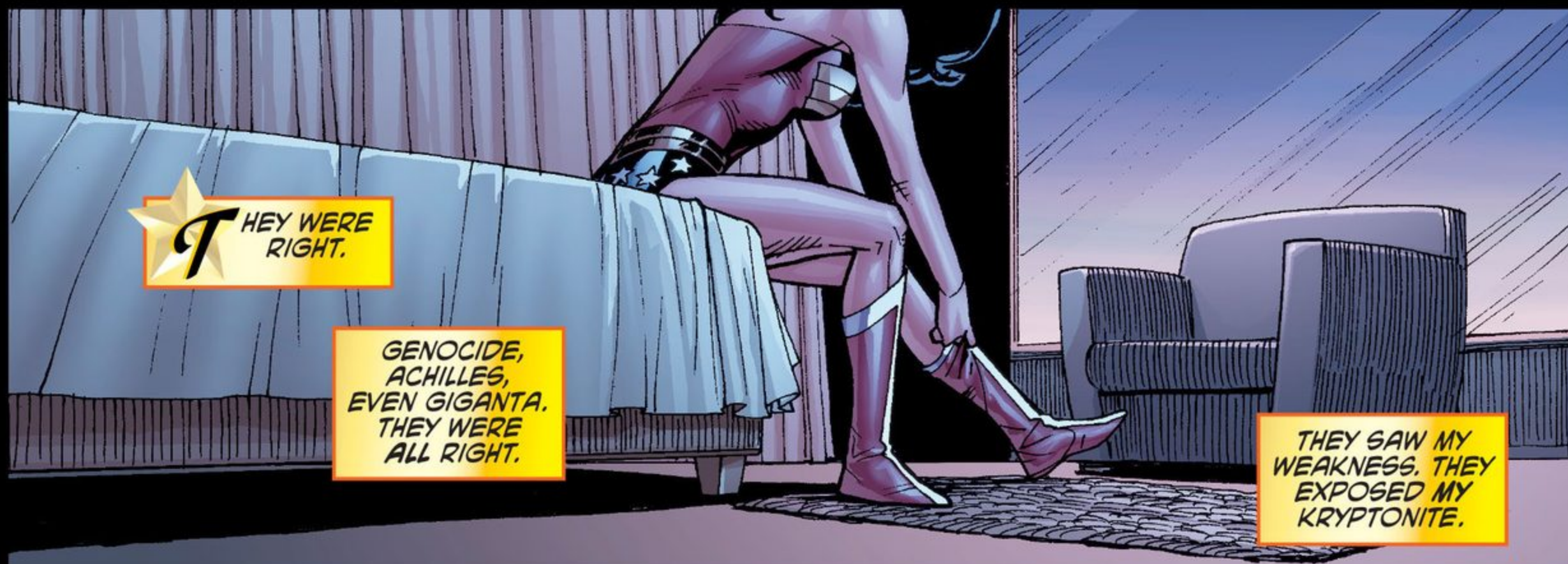
FIGHT *HARDER*,
THALARION.

PROVE TO
ME THAT YOU
ARE *FIT*!

STOP.







THEY WERE
RIGHT.

GENOCIDE,
ACHILLES,
EVEN GIGANTA.
THEY WERE
ALL RIGHT.

THEY SAW MY
WEAKNESS. THEY
EXPOSED MY
KRYPTONITE.



MY FAILING
AS A
WARRIOR.

IT'S THAT
THE PAIN
OF OTHERS
SHADOWS
MY WILL.



I CAN'T
BEAR THE
PAIN OF
INNOCENTS.

BUT BECAUSE OF
WHO MY ADVERSARIES
ARE, THEY ONLY SEE
MY LOVE AS A DEFECT
IN THE ARMOR.

AND IT TOOK A
LIVING NIGHTMARE
TO REMIND ME.



BUT THEY DON'T
KNOW IT'S ALSO
WHAT GIVES ME
MY STRENGTH.

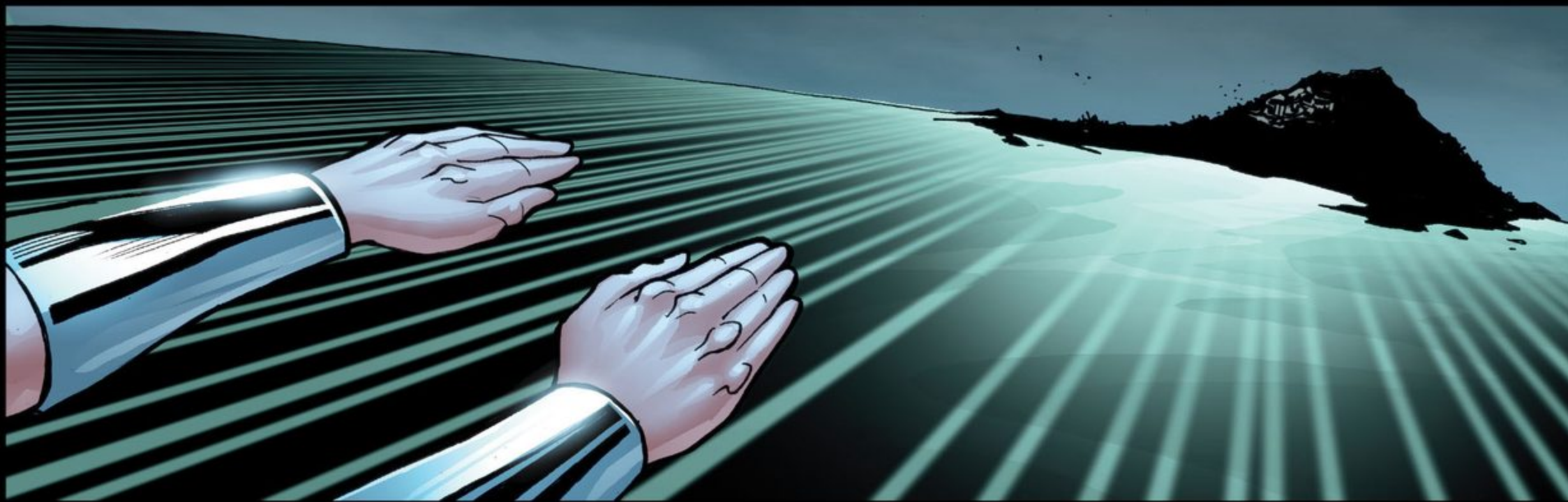


ENOUGH OF ALL
THAT. TONIGHT, I
WILL SHOW THEM.

TONIGHT I WILL
INTRODUCE
THEM TO--

--DIANA
REASSEMBLED.





SHE COMES.

I HEAR.

SHOULD WE NOT MUSTER OUR FIGHTERS, MY LORD? SHOULD WE NOT GATHER OUR GREATEST WEAPONS?

JASON, I ASK YOU, IF WE HAD A THOUSAND THOUSANDS AND EVERY WEAPON ON EARTH...



...WHAT POSSIBLE DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE?

YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE.

I WAS WRONG TO LET YOUR THREATS SWAY ME.



I'M TAKING MY MOTHER OFF THIS ISLAND.

I'VE BEATEN YOU TWICE BEFORE, ACHILLES.

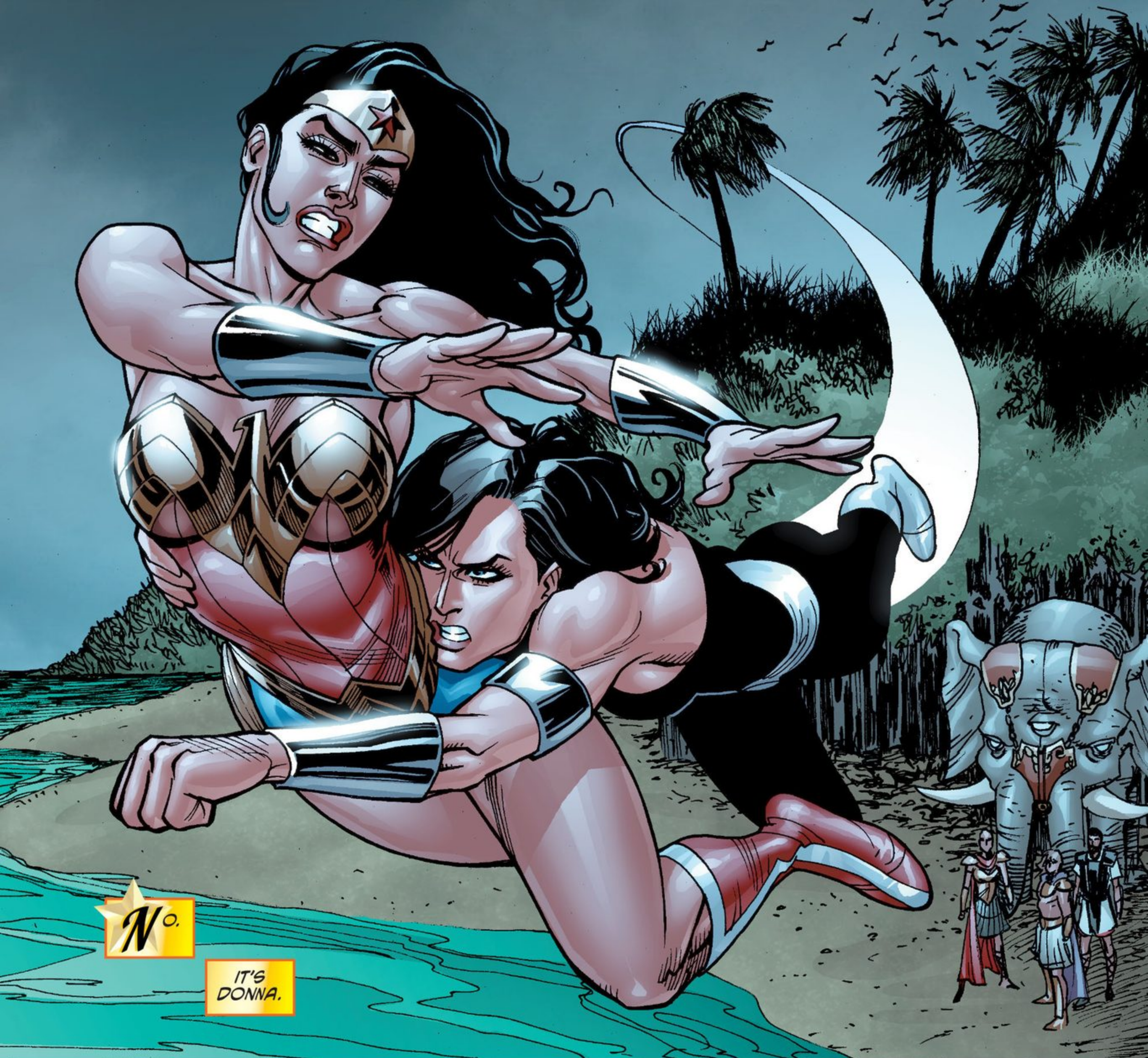
AH. BUT THIS TIME, PRINCESS-IN-EXILE...



...I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT *ME* WHO IS YOUR OPPONENT.

THAT SOUND...

...IS IT THE STYGIAN HORNETS?



Nº.

IT'S
DONNA.

THAT'S ONE MORE
BIT OF PAIN I OWE
YOU, ACHILLES.



THE
SMALLER
ONE'S MIND IS
DISEASED. IT
SEEMS--

--IGNOBLE.

LET THEM
KILL EACH
OTHER.

IT'S ONLY THE
GODS' JUSTICE FOR THEIR
ARROGANCE IN BEING
BORN AT ALL.



G ENOCIDE CREATED SOME SORT OF PSYCHIC BLOWBACK IN HER. SHE NOW BLAMES ME FOR THE DEATH OF HER FAMILY.



OUR LIVES HAVE GROWN APART. SHE'S NO LONGER A CHILD.

SHE...



GREAT HERA!

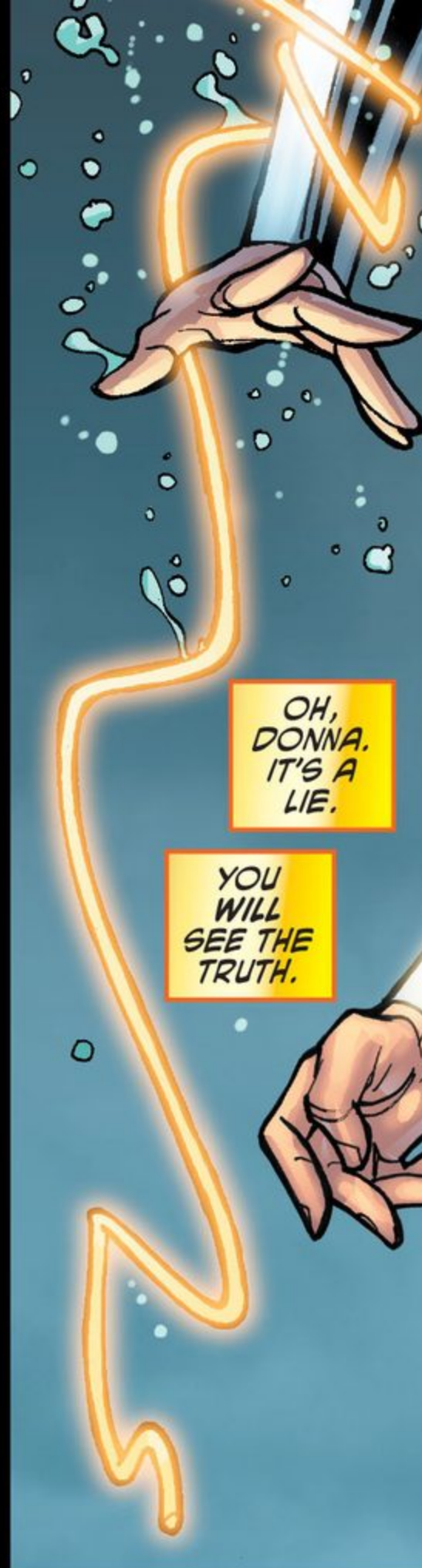


WHAT A WARRIOR SHE'S BECOME!

THROUGH THE PAIN, I AM ODDLY PROUD.

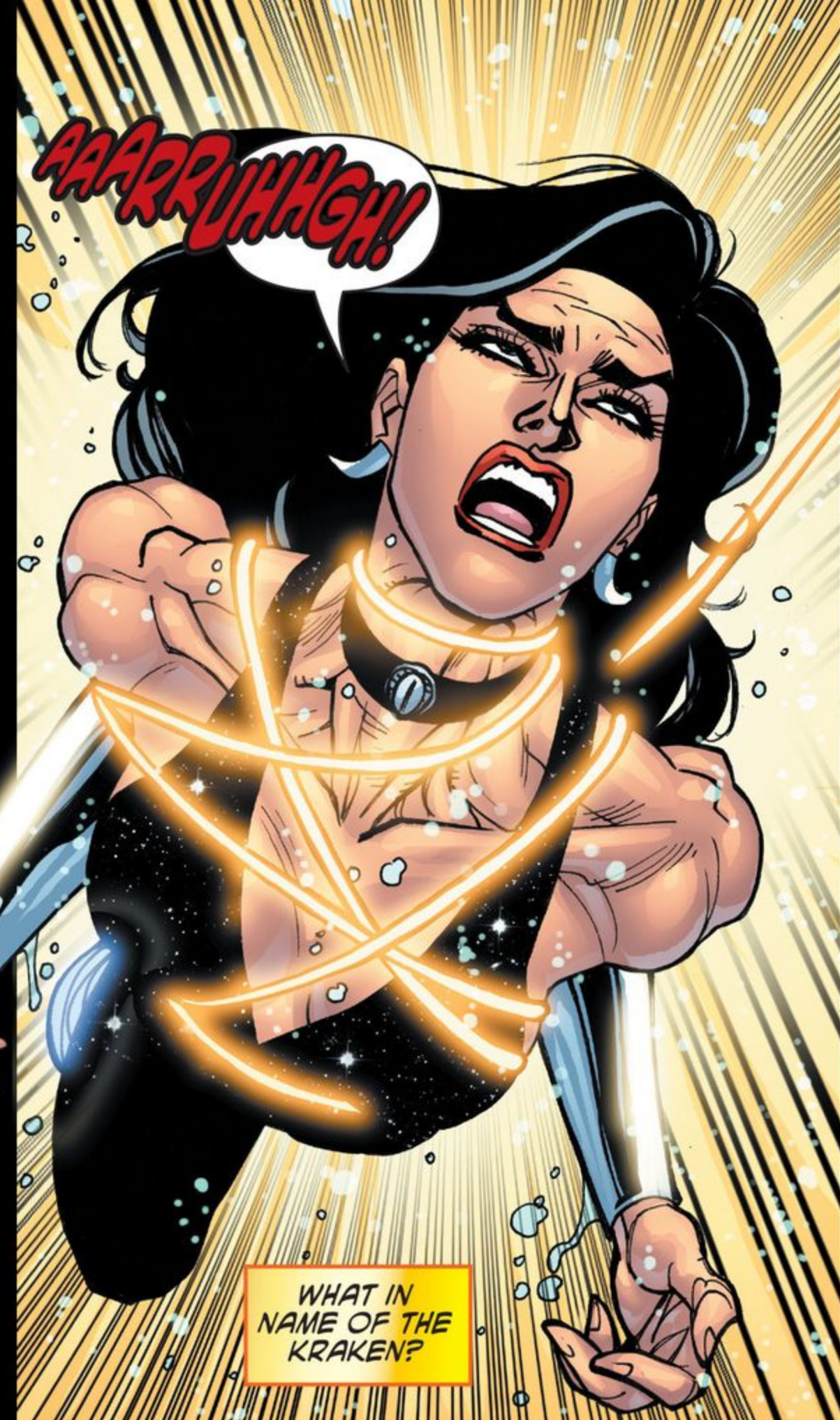


MURDERER!
TRAITOR!



OH, DONNA.
IT'S A LIE.

YOU
WILL
SEE THE
TRUTH.



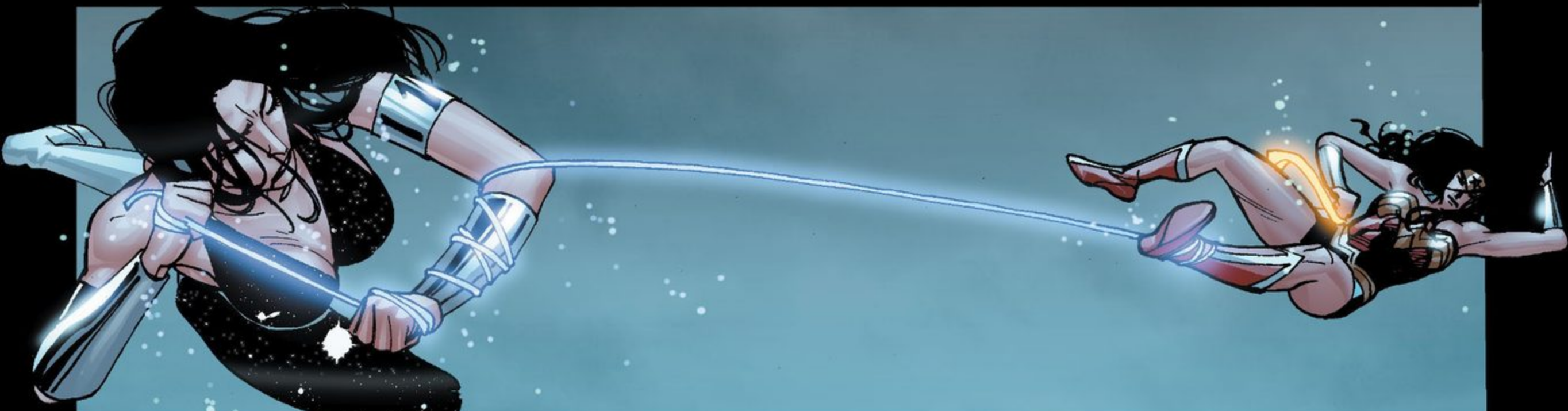
AAARRUHHGH!

WHAT IN
NAME OF THE
KRAKEN?



THE
LASSO...

...IT WAS
KILLING
HER!





AND NOW SHE IS CHARGING ME FROM BEHIND.

DONNA,
DONNA,
DONNA.

GGHH.

USING THE SAME
TACTIC TWICE IN
ONE FIGHT?

UNNNH!

I THOUGHT I
TAUGHT YOU
BETTER THAN
THAT.

HAVE NO
CHOICE.

HAVE TO
SUBDUE HER
BEFORE I
CAN REASON
WITH HER.

I LOVED
TERRY AND THE
KIDS, DONNA. I
LOVED THEM.

AND I LOVE
YOU MORE THAN
ANYTHING ELSE ON
THIS PLANET OR
ANY OTHER.

THE
THING
IS...

THE SECOND DAUGHTER
OF THEMYSCLIRA DOES
NOT SUBDUCE EASILY.





HESTIA'S
LASSO!

WE
HAVE
TO--!

LEAVE
IT.

THE LASSO. WHATEVER HATE-BOMB GENOCIDE PLACED IN DONNA'S BRAIN IS REACTING TO PROXIMITY WITH THE LASSO.



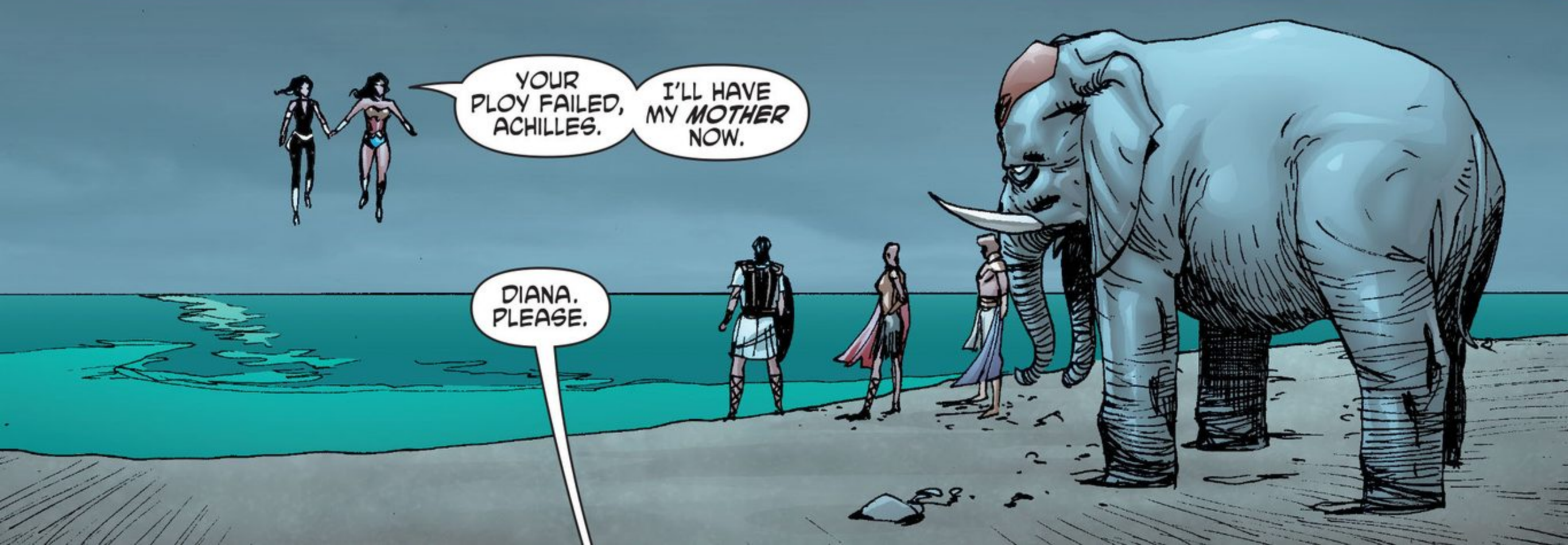
I...
YOU'D
GIVE UP THE
LASSO, THE
POWER OF ALL
TRUTH... FOR
ME?



IT IS A
GLORIOUS THING.
BUT IT IS STILL A
POSSESSION.
YOU ARE MY
SISTER.



AND ALL
THE GIFTS FROM
THE GODS THAT
HAVE EVER BEEN
AREN'T WORTH A
STRAND OF YOUR
HAIR.



YOUR
PLOY FAILED,
ACHILLES.

I'LL HAVE
MY MOTHER
NOW.

DIANA.
PLEASE.



DIANA. IF YOU TRULY LOVE ME, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND MY CHOICE HERE.

ALL MY LIFE, I HAVE BELIEVED IN FAITH AND DUTY.

MANY AMAZONS HAVE DIED DEFENDING THIS ISLAND.

TOO MANY AMAZONS.



IF MY DISCOMFORT, IF MY IMPRISONMENT, IF MY *EXECUTION* HOLDS OUR PEOPLE TOGETHER...

...IT IS ONLY SMALL REPAYMENT FOR THE BLOOD SPILLED IN MY NAME.



SURRENDER YOUR BRACERS AND THE GIRLDE, DRAGON.

YOUR TIME OF POISONING OUR PEOPLE IS OVER.

WHAT? ARE YOU *INSANE*?

DIANA. PLEASE. ARE WE MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR SISTERS' SURVIVAL?



THIS IS MADNESS. YOU WILL *ALWAYS* BE THE QUEEN HERE!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. ACHILLES WAS CHOSEN KING BY THE *GODS*. AND THIS MORNING, HE *MARRIED* ALKYONE.



THIS IS *HER* ISLAND NOW.

NEXT: THE GUARDIAN



38
JAN '10

Wonder Woman



GAIL
SIMONE
AARON
LOPRESTI
MATT
RYAN





9 RETURNED TO
THE PLACE I USED
TO CALL HOME TO
SAVE MY MOTHER,
BECAUSE OF HIM, ARES.

EVEN FROM THE
GRAVE HE TAUNTS AND
BOASTS AND POISONS.
I CAME HERE TO STOP HIS
DESTRUCTION OF THEMYSKIRA,
POSSIBLY TOO LATE.

INSTEAD I HAVE BEEN
STRIPPED, SHAMED
AND IMPRISONED. NIGHT
FALLS ON THE PRINCESS
OF THEMYSKIRA.

I SEEM TO HAVE
LOST EVERYTHING I
EVER CHERISHED.

MY ISLAND,
MY WEAPONS,
MY FAMILY, MY
POTENTIAL MATE...

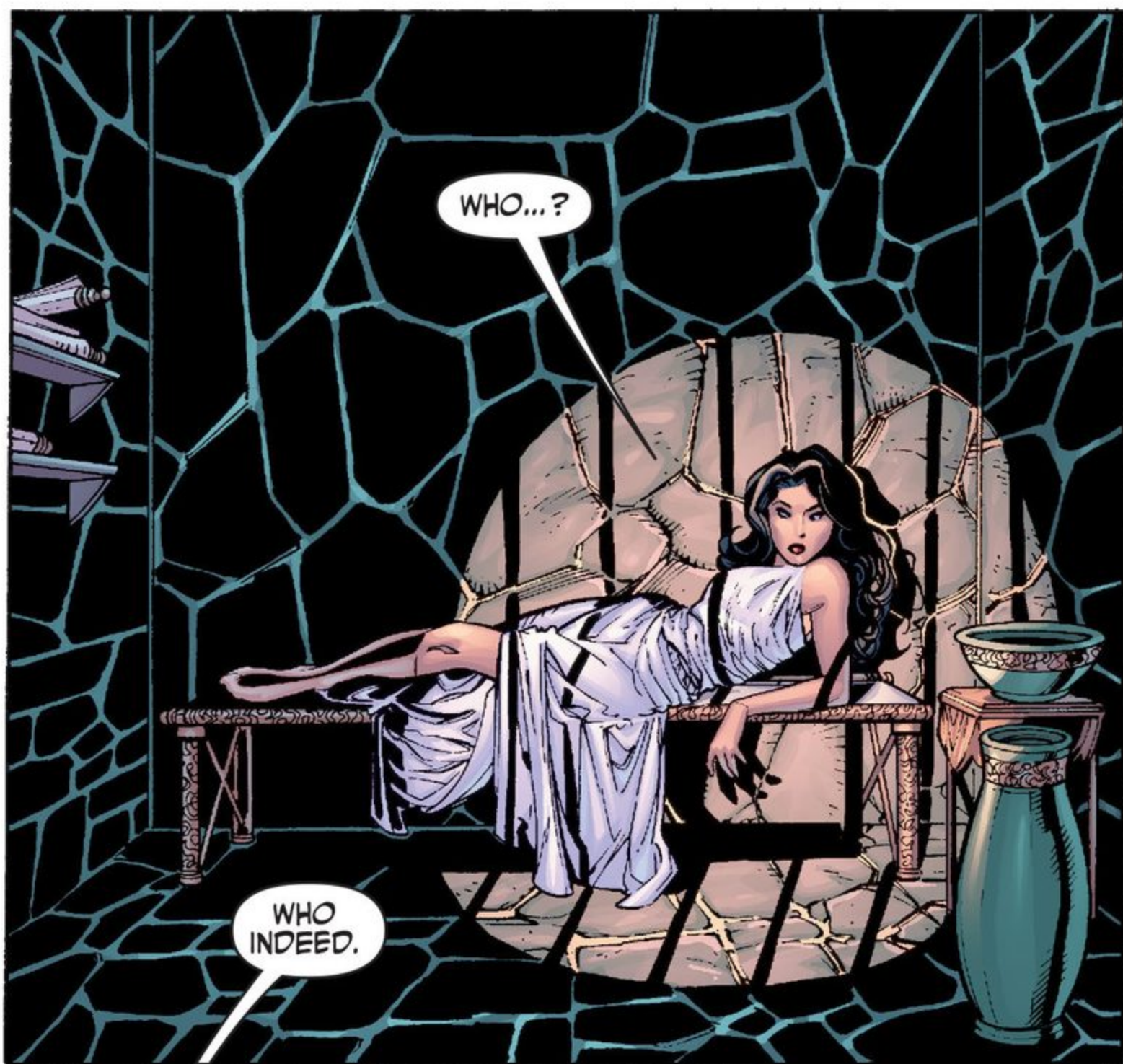
WARKILLER 3 OF 4 AFTER THE FIRE

GAIL SIMONE//WRITER AARON LOPRESTI//PENCILLER
MATT RYAN//INKER HI-FI//COLORIST
TRAVIS LANHAM//LETTERER AARON LOPRESTI & HI-FI//COVER
SEAN RYAN//ASSOC. EDITOR ELISABETH V. GEHRLIN//EDITOR
WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON



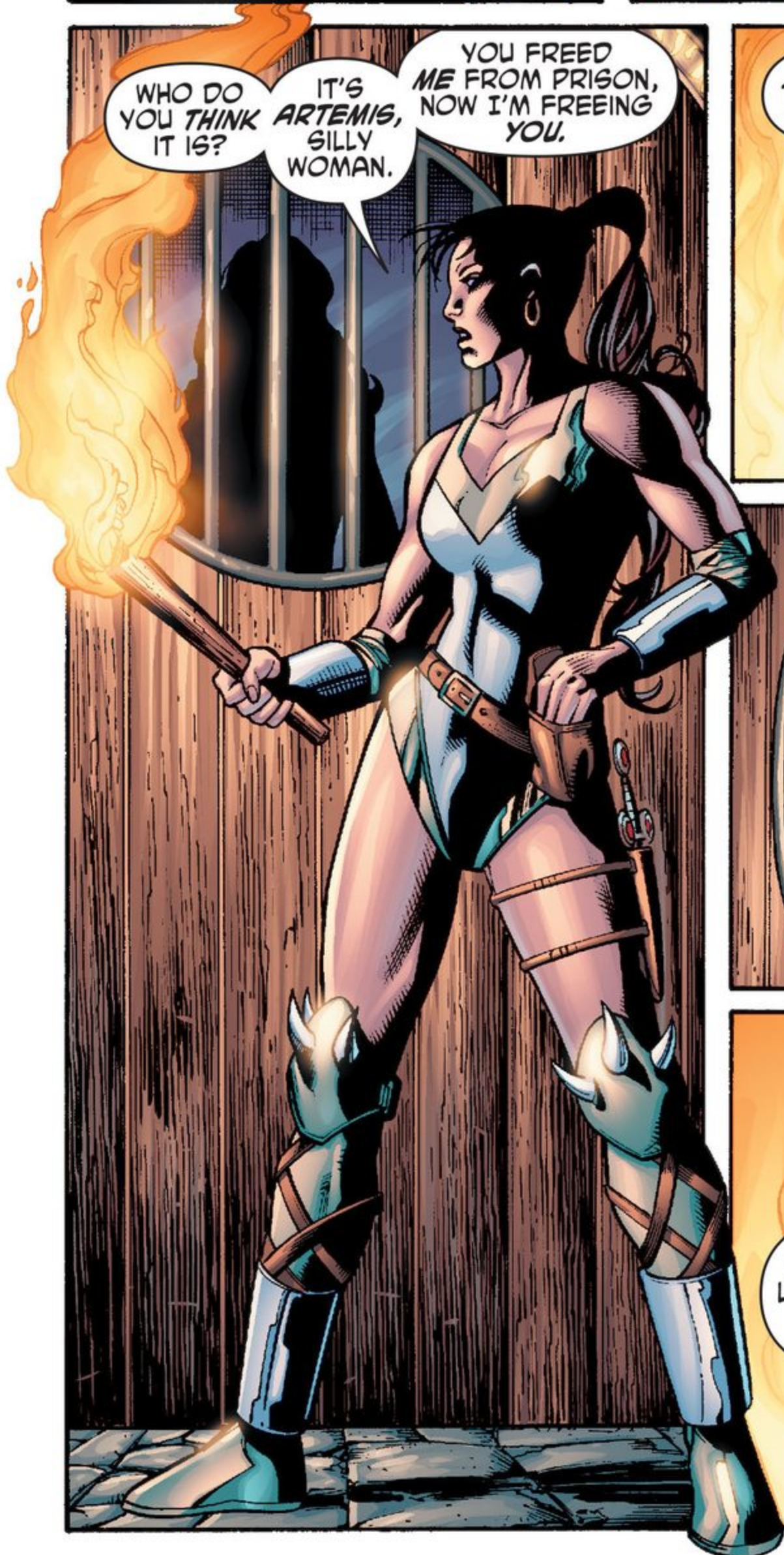
M^y SISTERS?

DIANA.
I'VE COME
FOR YOU.



WHO...?

WHO
INDEED.



WHO DO
YOU THINK
IT IS?

IT'S
ARTEMIS,
SILLY
WOMAN.

YOU FREED
ME FROM PRISON,
NOW I'M FREEING
YOU.



WASN'T
THE CAVERN
GUARDED?

MM. BY THREE
GUARDS. **MALE**
GUARDS, OF
ALL THINGS.

IT'S ALMOST
INSULTING.



LOYAL
HUNTER.

I THANK
YOU FOR THIS
GESTURE.

YOUR
BRACELETS.
THEY DARED TO
TAKE YOUR...

DAMN
THEM!



YOU
KNOW I HAVE
LITTLE USE FOR
PAGEANTRY,
DIANA.

BUT I'LL BURY
THEM NECK DEEP IN
COMPOST FOR WHAT
THEY'VE DONE.

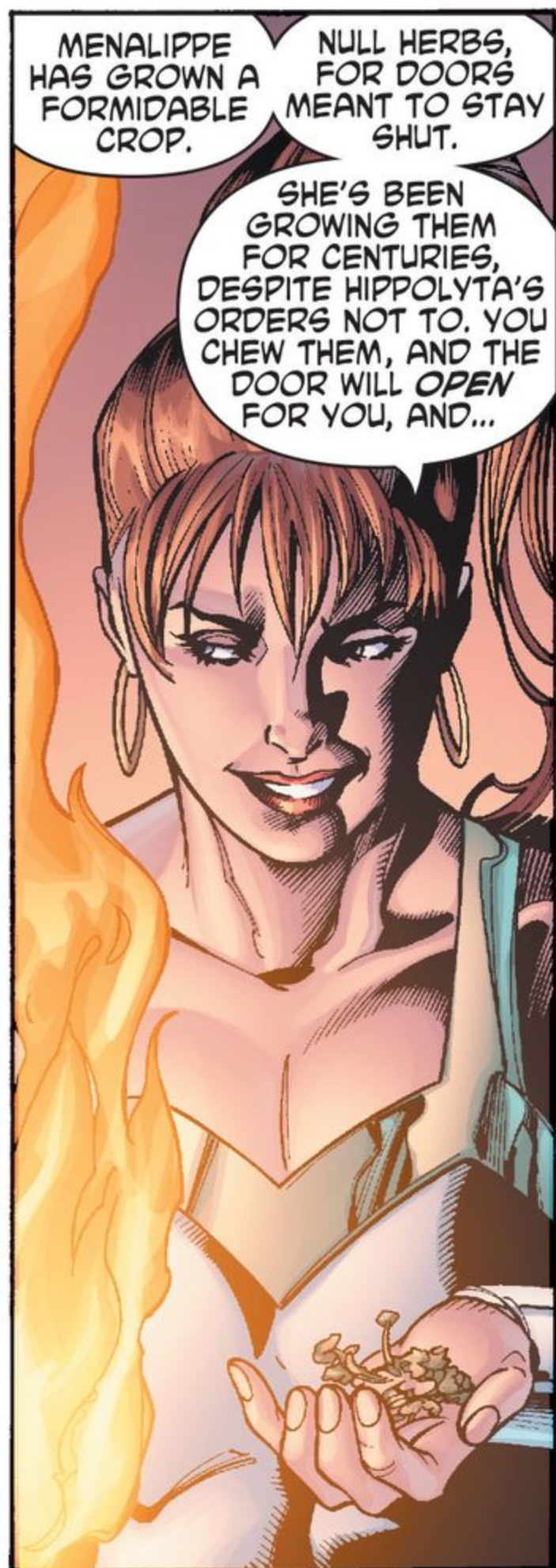


ARTEMIS ISN'T THE COMPANION YOU'D MOST WANT AT A DINNER PARTY OR FORMAL AFFAIR, PERHAPS.

BUT IN THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION, SHE SEEMS PRECISELY THE PERSON I'D MOST LIKE TO SPEND A FEW MOMENTS WITH.

THE DOOR, ARTEMIS. THE CELL DOOR IS ENSORCELLED.

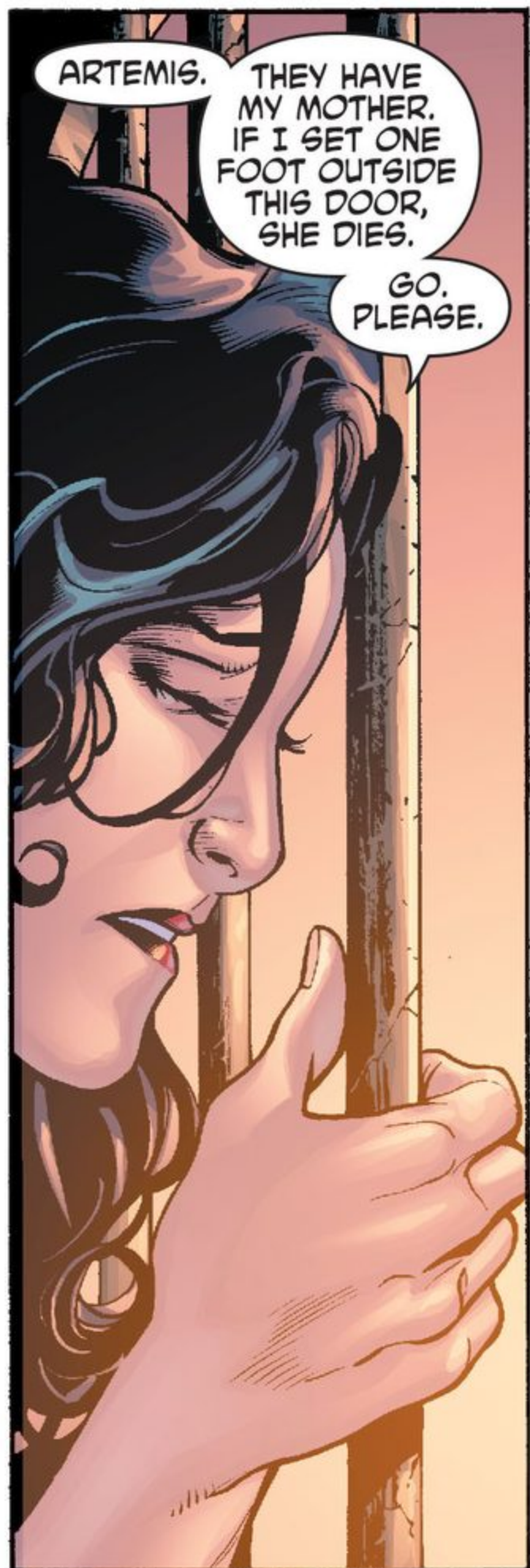
THAT'S THE BEST PART!



MENALIPPE HAS GROWN A FORMIDABLE CROP.

NULL HERBS, FOR DOORS MEANT TO STAY SHUT.

SHE'S BEEN GROWING THEM FOR CENTURIES, DESPITE HIPPOLYTA'S ORDERS NOT TO. YOU CHEW THEM, AND THE DOOR WILL OPEN FOR YOU, AND...



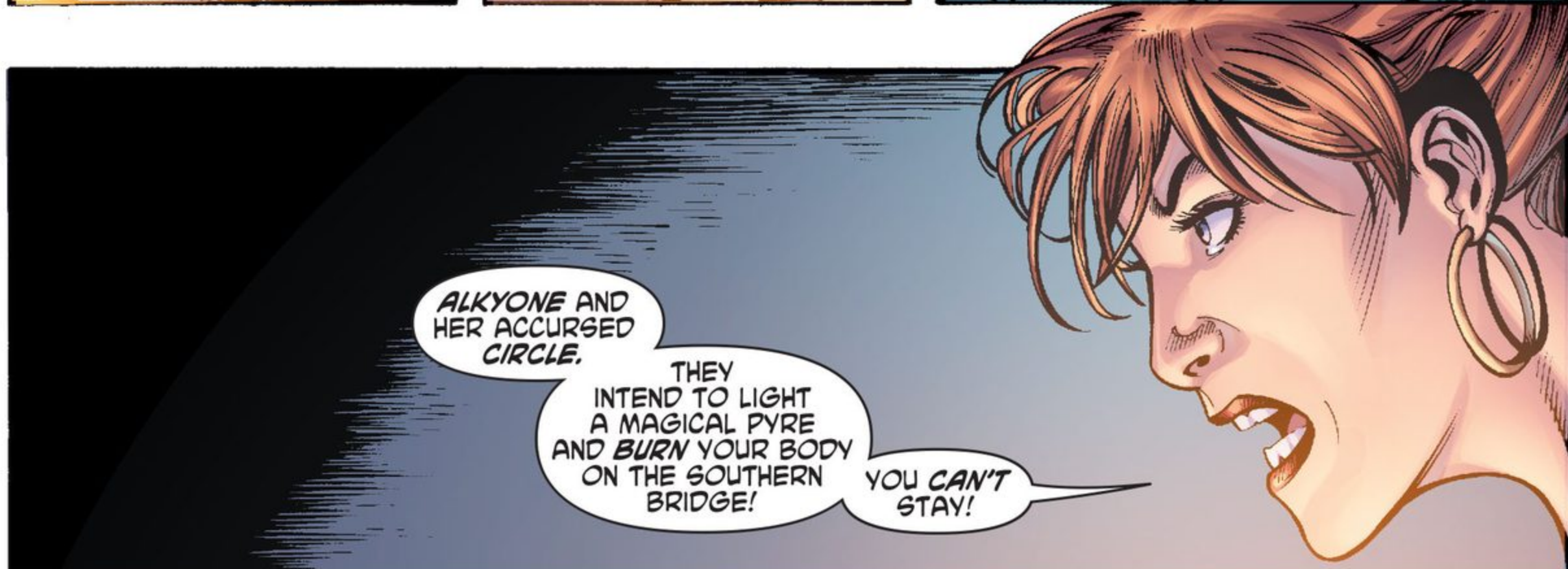
ARTEMIS. THEY HAVE MY MOTHER. IF I SET ONE FOOT OUTSIDE THIS DOOR, SHE DIES.

GO. PLEASE.



WHAT? DON'T BE A FOOL.

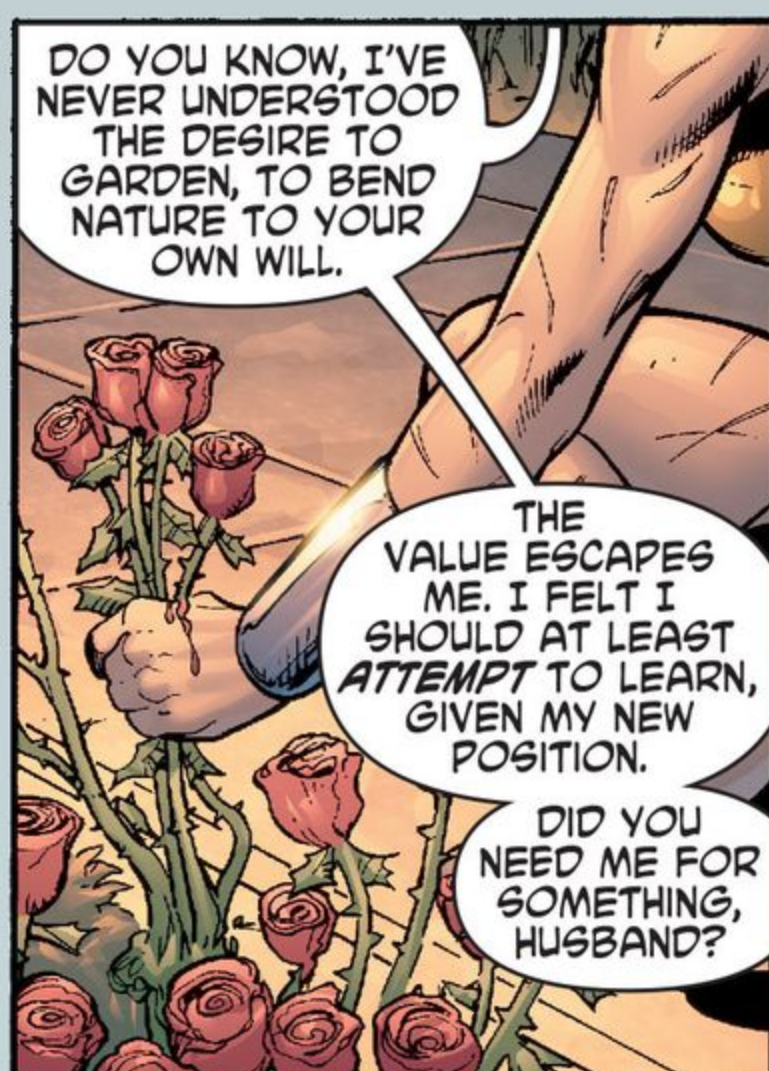
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL YOU, DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT? THEY KNOW NOW THAT ACHILLES' SPEAR CAN PIERCE YOUR FLESH. THEY INTEND TO IMPALE YOU, DIANA!



ALKYONE AND HER ACCURSED CIRCLE.

THEY INTEND TO LIGHT A MAGICAL PYRE AND BURN YOUR BODY ON THE SOUTHERN BRIDGE!

YOU CAN'T STAY!





TROUBLED, HUSBAND?

AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE LOYAL TO YOUR GODS.



DON'T YOU QUESTION MY FAITH, WOMAN.

I WILL *DIE* WITH PRAISE FOR THE GODS ON MY LIPS!

AND YET.

ZEUS GIVES YOU THE CLEAR MANDATE, AND YOU SELFISHLY SHIRK YOUR DUTY IN THE FACE OF ALL HE HAS GIVEN YOU.



HE GAVE NO ORDER TO KILL THE PRINCESS.



SHE WAS A PRINCESS IN TITLE ONLY. SHE NEVER CARED FOR THIS ISLAND.

SHE COULDN'T WAIT TO ABANDON HER PEOPLE. SHE DALLIES WITH MEN. WITH MEN!

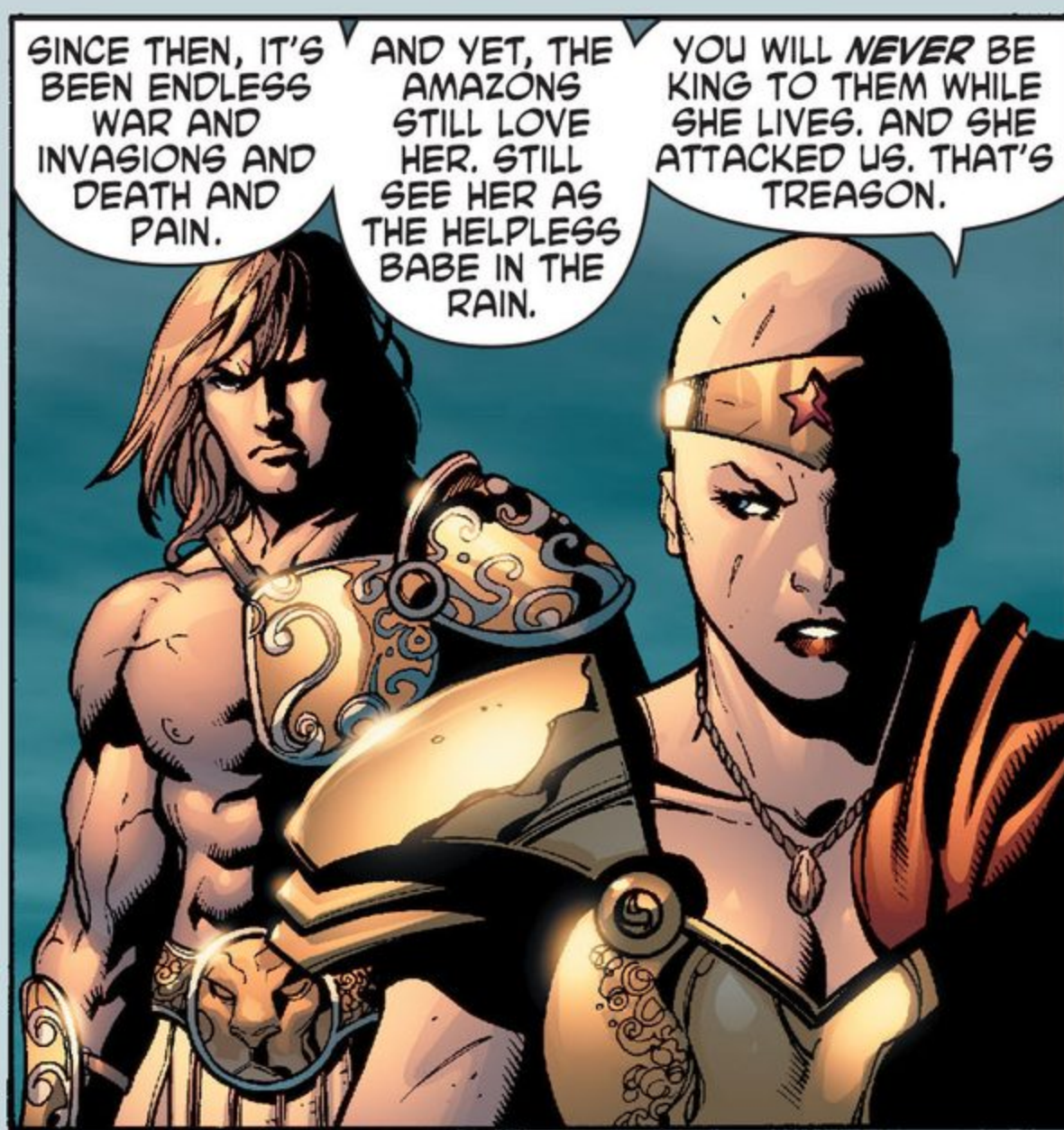
AND NOW, SHE HAS GIVEN UP EVEN THAT ANEMIC POSITION AND HAS RENOUNCED HER CLAIM HERE.



YOU WERE NOT HERE. YOU CAN'T KNOW.

WHAT THIS PLACE WAS LIKE BEFORE SHE, BEFORE THE DRAGON, WAS BORN.

"PARADISE ISLAND," WE CALLED IT. AND IT WAS.



SINCE THEN, IT'S BEEN ENDLESS WAR AND INVASIONS AND DEATH AND PAIN.

AND YET, THE AMAZONS STILL LOVE HER. STILL SEE HER AS THE HELPLESS BABE IN THE RAIN.

YOU WILL NEVER BE KING TO THEM WHILE SHE LIVES. AND SHE ATTACKED US. THAT'S TREASON.



WHAT...
WHAT
WOULD YOU
HAVE ME
DO?



EXECUTE
HER.

IT IS A
TRAGEDY,
HUSBAND, BUT
IT MUST BE
DONE.

AND
THERE'S
MORE.



SHE HAS LOYALISTS. I'VE
MADE A LIST. FANATICS SHE HAS
CONSPIRED WITH AGAINST YOU.

THEY MUST BE JAILED
BEFORE THE CEREMONY OF HER
DISPATCH.

THEY WILL SEND YOUR
MEN BACK TO HELL, OTHERWISE.



"AND HER
REMAINING GORILLA
ALLIES, THAT SHE LEFT
HERE AS SPIES."



WE'LL
EXECUTE
THEM.

AND HANG
THEIR SKINS
NEAR THE CENTRAL
FOUNTAIN AS A
MESSAGE TO
OTHERS.

I'VE
ALREADY
GIVEN THE
ORDER.

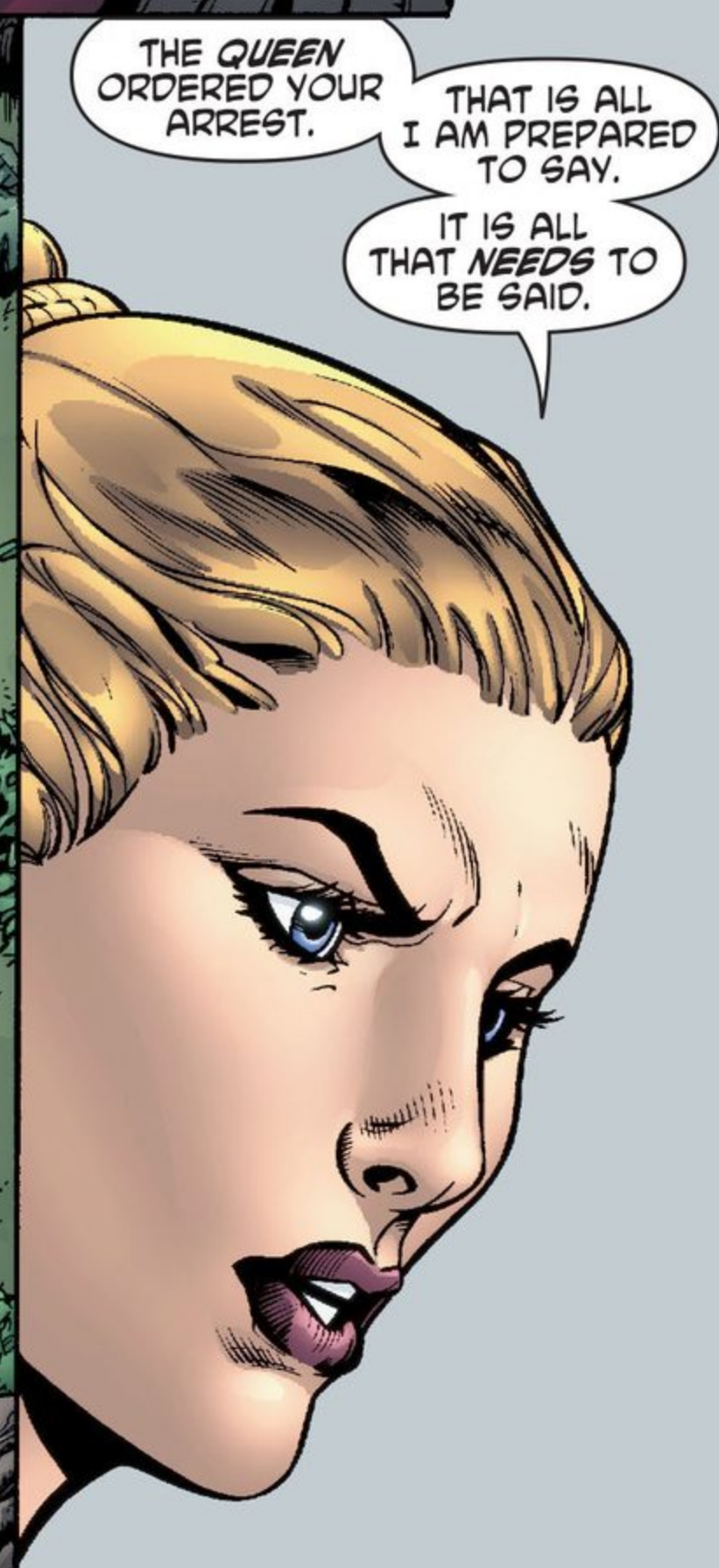


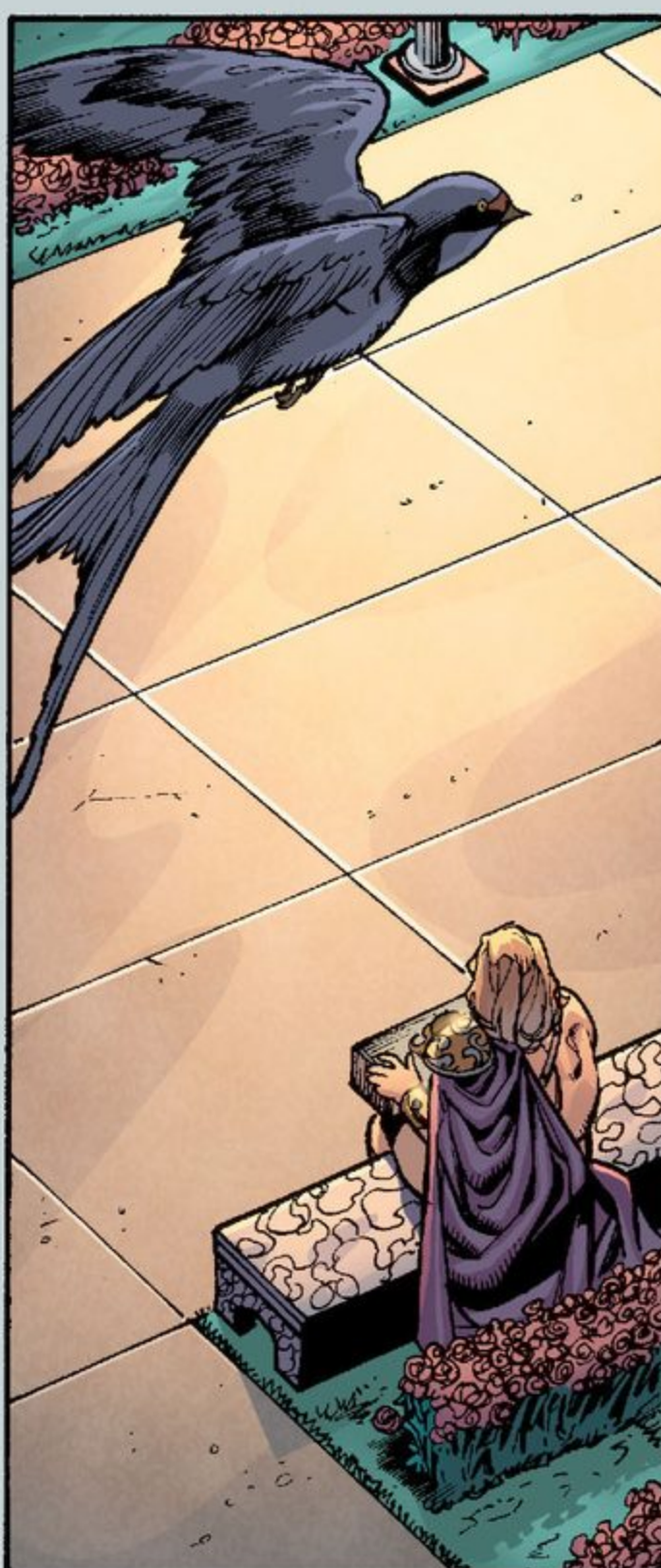
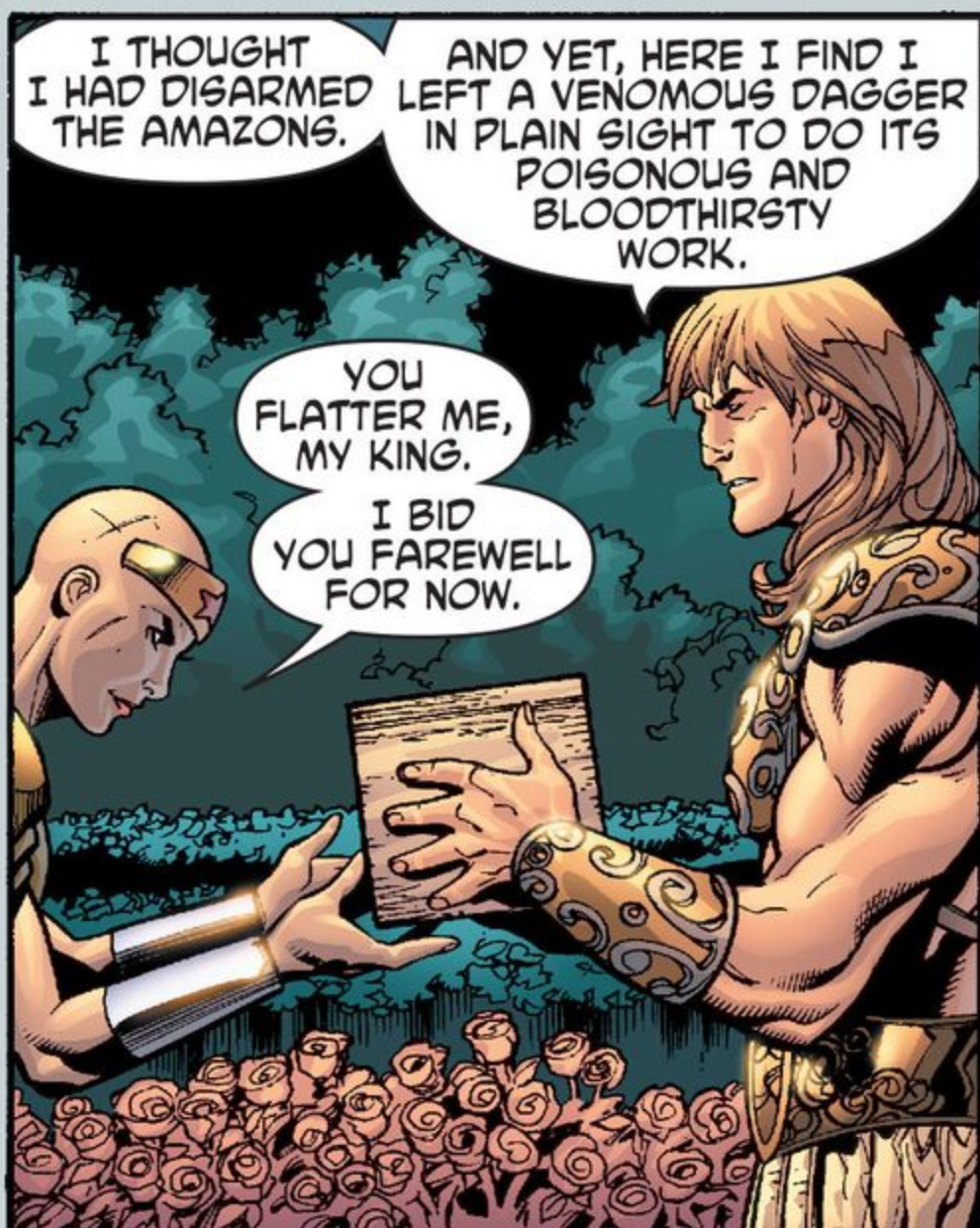
THANK YOU,
PHINEA.
NOW, ENOUGH
UNPLEASANTRIES.

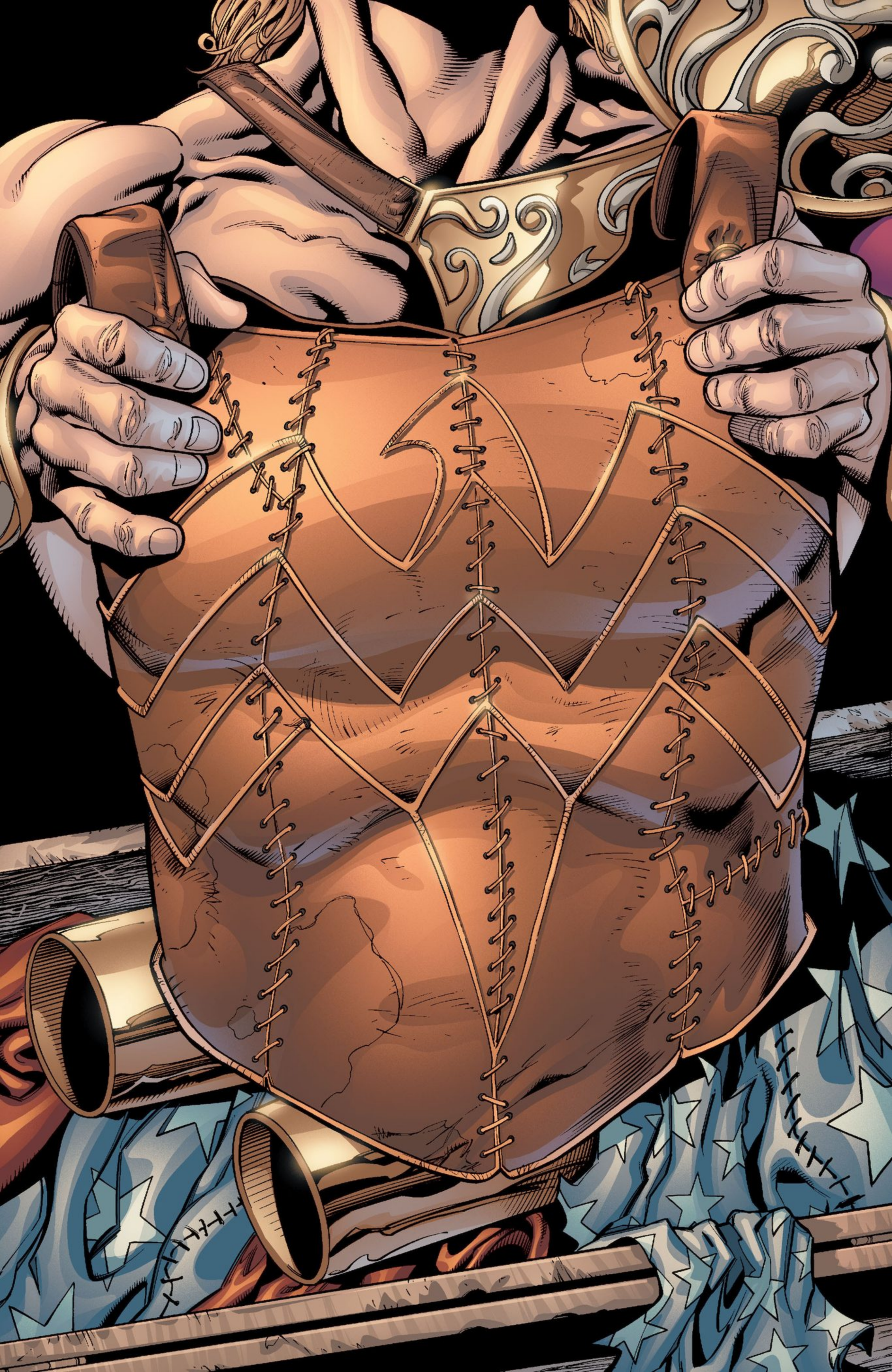
I'VE
MADE YOU
A WEDDING
GIFT.



BETRAYED!
WE ARE
BETRAYED!







LEAVE ME
TO MY THOUGHTS,
PHINEA.

BUT I
THOUGHT YOU
WANTED...

I NEEDED
TO SALT A WOUND,
HANDSOME ONE. I
AM SATIATED.



WATCH
YOUR STEP,
SISTER.

YOU'RE
NEARER THE
EDGE THAN
YOU KNOW.

WHO...?

HIPPOLYTA?



NO.
TROY.

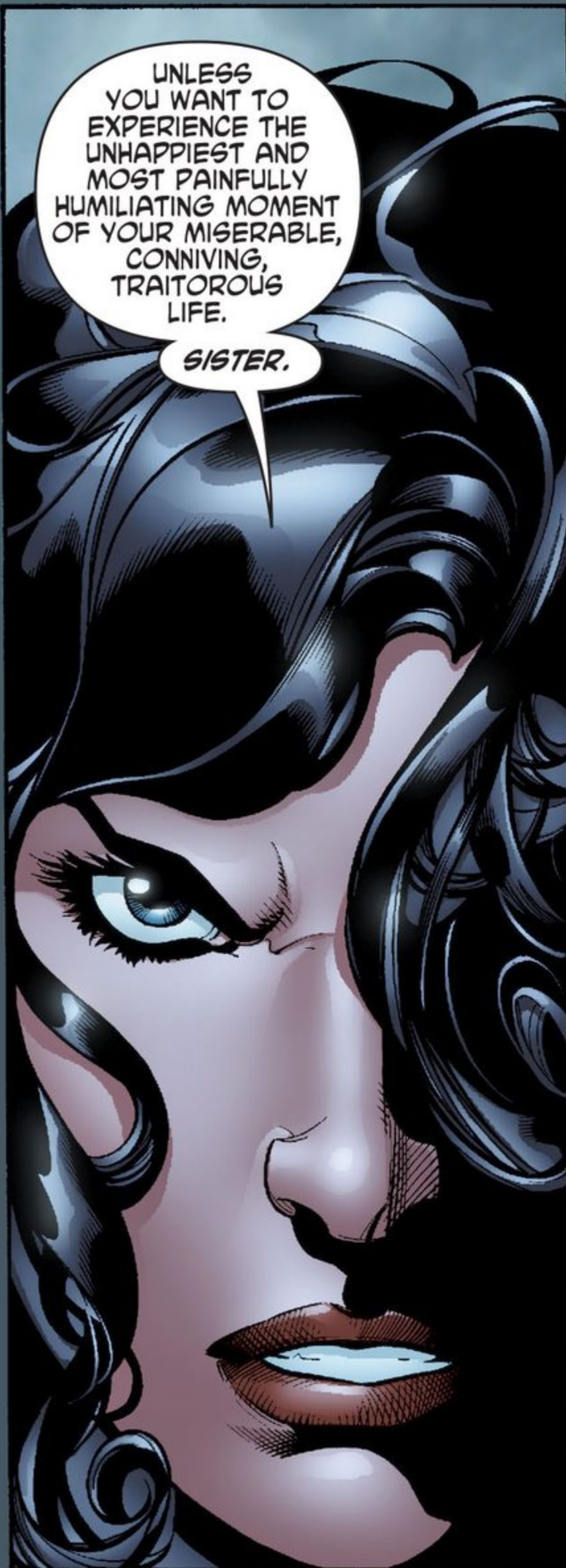
YOUR
SWORD?
REALLY?

I
WOULDN'T,
"QUEEN"
ALYKONE.



UNLESS
YOU WANT TO
EXPERIENCE THE
UNHAPPIEST AND
MOST PAINFULLY
HUMILIATING MOMENT
OF YOUR MISERABLE,
CONNIVING,
TRAITOROUS
LIFE.

SISTER.





YES.
TYPICAL.

ANOTHER
SPOILED CHILD,
USING HER POWERS
WHEN HER
WILL IS FOUND
WANTING.



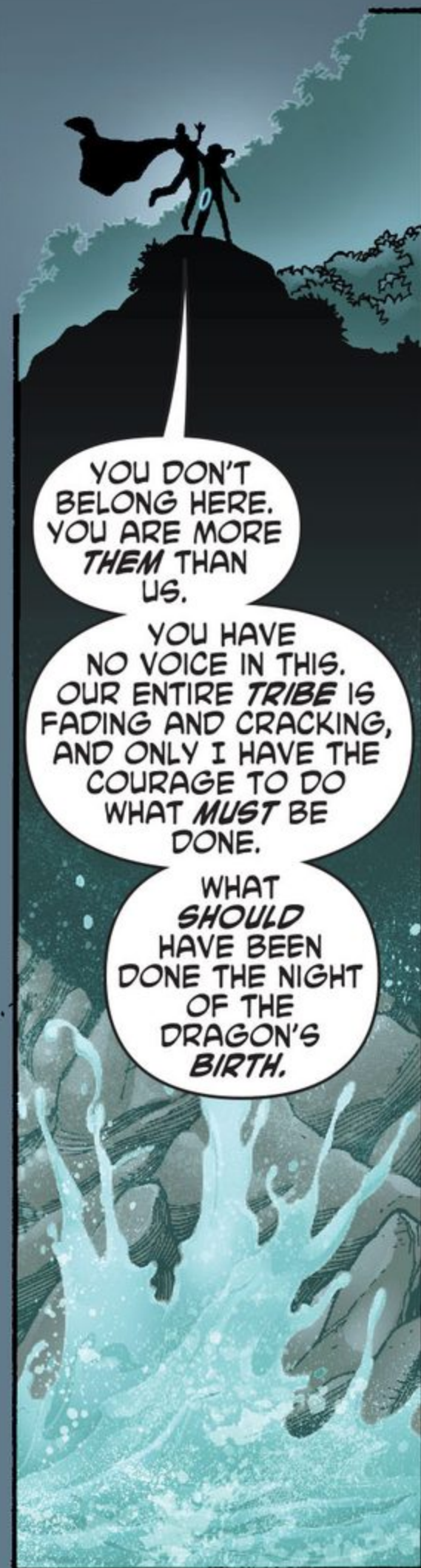
MY
WILL?

I
WOULDN'T *TEST*
IT, ALKYONE.

THIS
EXECUTION
WILL *NOT* TAKE
PLACE.

KK...

KILL ME
THEN.



YOU DON'T
BELONG HERE.
YOU ARE MORE
THEM THAN
US.

YOU HAVE
NO VOICE IN THIS.
OUR ENTIRE *TRIBE* IS
FADING AND CRACKING,
AND ONLY I HAVE THE
COURAGE TO DO
WHAT *MUST* BE
DONE.

WHAT
SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
DONE THE NIGHT
OF THE
DRAGON'S
BIRTH.



I WILL
SAVE OUR
PEOPLE.

KILL ME.
IT IS THE *ONLY*
WAY YOU WILL
STOP ME.

I HAVE
TAKEN HIPPOLYTA
AND YOU *WON'T*
FIND HER.



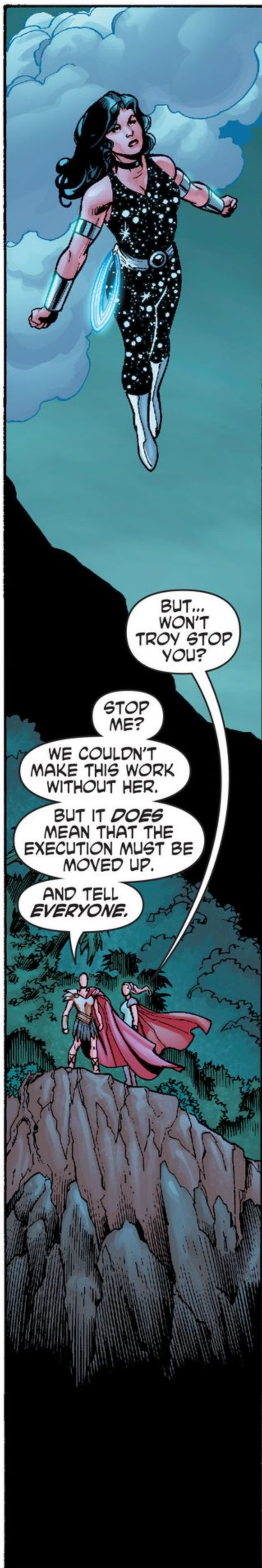
WE'LL
SEE.

"MY
QUEEN."

PHINEA.



GATHER
MY CIRCLE.



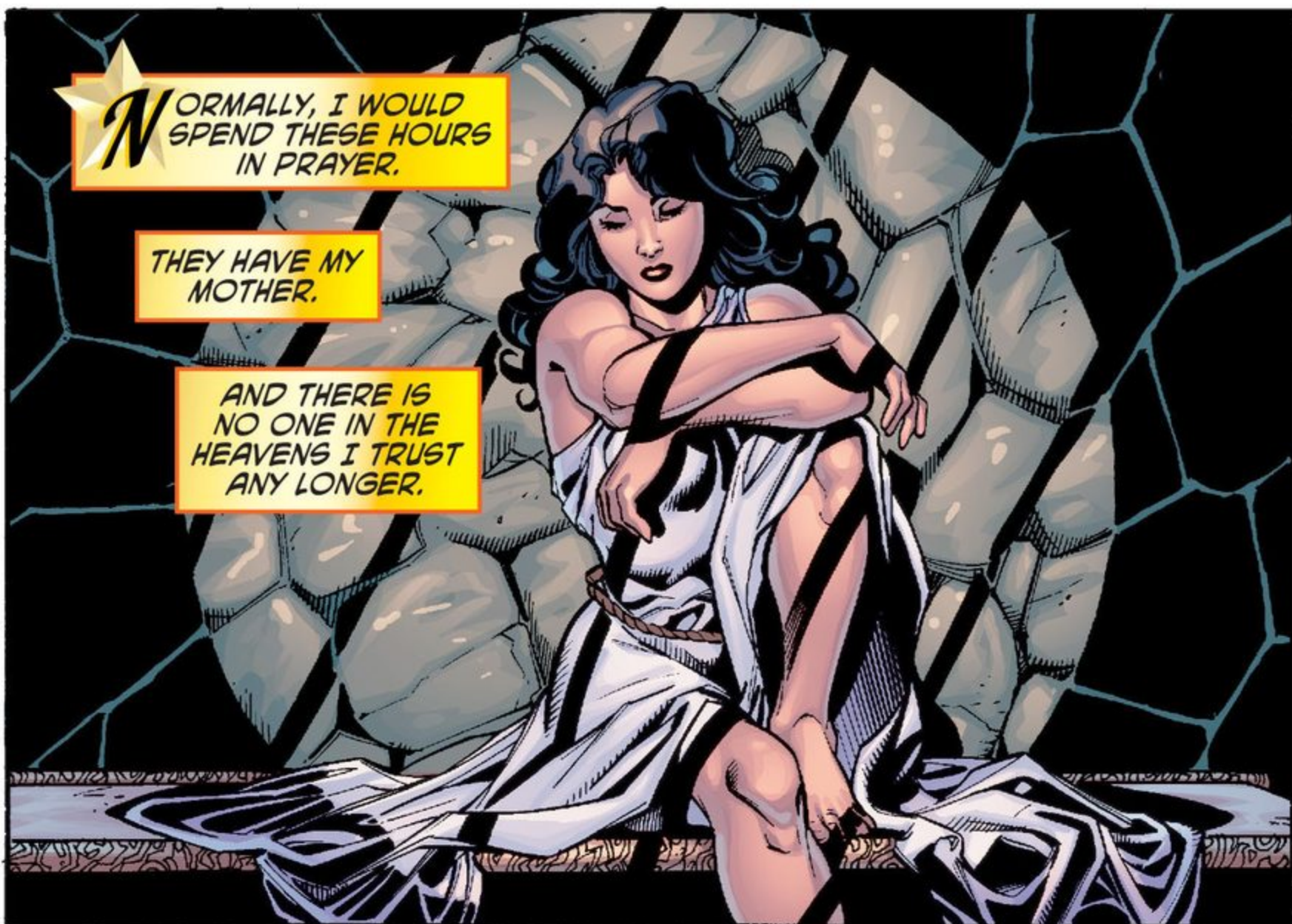
BUT...
WON'T
TROY STOP
YOU?

STOP
ME?

WE COULDN'T
MAKE THIS WORK
WITHOUT HER.

BUT IT *DOES*
MEAN THAT THE
EXECUTION MUST BE
MOVED UP.

AND TELL
EVERYONE.



*N*ORMALLY, I WOULD
SPEND THESE HOURS
IN PRAYER.

THEY HAVE MY
MOTHER.

AND THERE IS
NO ONE IN THE
HEAVENS I TRUST
ANY LONGER.



THE EXECUTION
HAS BEEN MOVED
FORWARD,
JASON.

BUT THE
AMAZONS WILL
RIOT.

WHAT CHOICE
HAVE WE? TAKE
ARMS. GUARD
ACHILLES.

AND
PRAY FOR
OUR DAMAGED
SOULS.



PRINCESS'S
ORDERS OR
NO...

...WILL WE, AS THE
TRUE TRIBE OF
AMAZONS, ALLOW
MEN TO EXECUTE
DIANA?



IT'S
TIME.

I
UNDERSTAND.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SILENCE.

WILL THE FOUR OF US EVER LOSE FAITH, EVEN IN DEATH?

WILL WE BREAK OUR SACRED VOW?



NEVER.

NEVER.

NEVER.

NO. NEVER.



WHEN ALL OTHERS CHOOSE THE SIMPLE PATH, THE EASY WAY TO MADNESS.

ONLY *WE* STRUGGLE ON.

ONLY *WE* KNOW OUR DUTY.



WE WILL BE HATED.

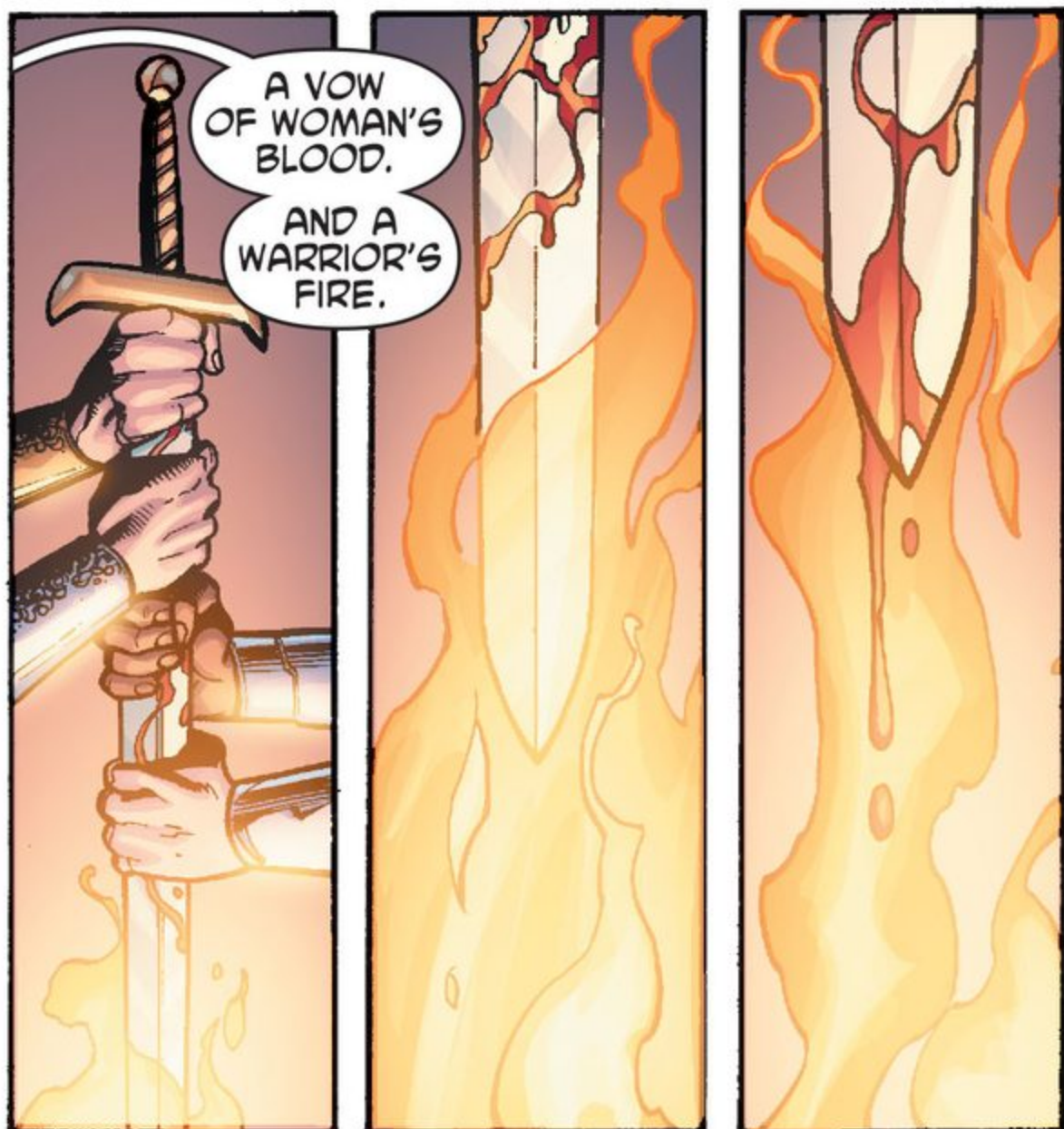
BUT WITH THE PRINCESS DEAD, THEMYSKIRA WILL BE *REBORN*.



THE TRUE GOLEM, GENOCIDE.

ARES PUT ITS SPIRIT IN THIS WHITTLE BABY.

AND HE TRUSTED ITS CARE TO *ME*.



A VOW OF WOMAN'S BLOOD.
AND A WARRIOR'S FIRE.



AND
THE HATRED
OF THE GOD
OF WAR!

SPIRIT
OF DEATH,
ENTER OUR
SOULS!

HAHAHAHAAA!

FWOOP



UHN.

R...

RISE,
SISTERS.

IT IS
DONE.



PREPARE THE
PRISONER FOR HER
EXECUTION.



YOU
ARE NOT ONE
OF US.

YOU
HAVE
ALWAYS
FOLLOWED
THE RULES.
DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
THAT AFTER
THIS DAY, IF
YOU LIVE, YOU
MAY NEVER BE
WELCOME ON
THIS ISLAND
AGAIN?

ARE YOU,
OF ALL PEOPLE,
PREPARED
FOR THAT?



WE CAN'T TRUST THE OTHER AMAZONS. SOME WILL CHOOSE THE GODS OVER DIANA'S LIFE. THEY'VE BEEN TRAINED FOR NO OTHER WAY.

THEY HAVE HIPPOLYTA AS A HOSTAGE, SO THE PRINCESS WILL GO WILLINGLY TO HER DEATH.



"FIND HIPPOLYTA OR YOUR SISTER DIES!"

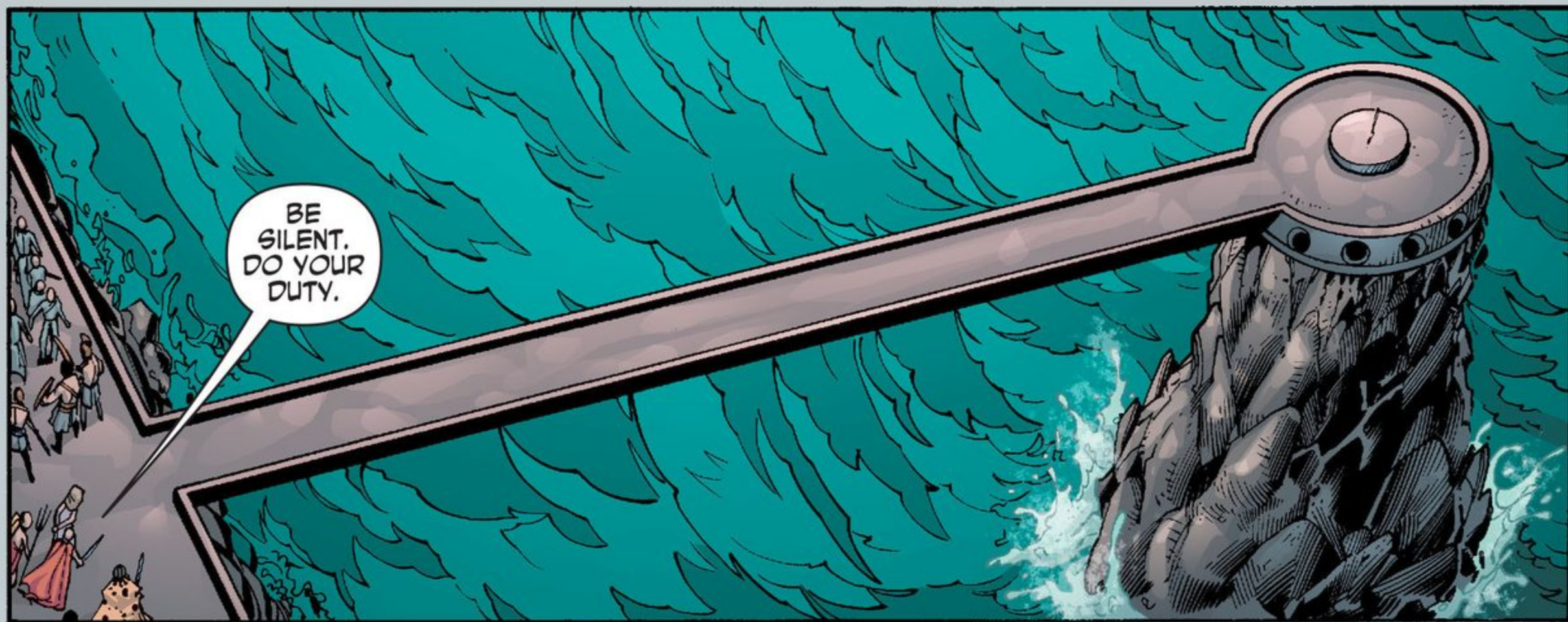


THIS IS...

THIS IS WRONG.

I CAN'T BE A PART OF THIS.







SISTERS,
YOUR QUEEN
SPEAKS.

THIS IS INDEED
A SAD NIGHT. BUT
IT IS A NIGHT WHICH
BRINGS HOPE. HOPE
FOR A RETURN TO
WHAT WE WERE.

BEFORE
THE DRAGON
WAS BORN!



SHE ABANDONED
YOU. SHE RENOUNCED
US ALL.

AND SHE
HAS OFFENDED
THE GODS!

THERE
IS NO CHOICE
LEFT TO US!

MISTRESS...?



SHE'S
GOING TO
DO IT.

TO WAR,
SISTERS! FEED
THEM ALL TO THE
MEGALODONS!



DIANA.
PLEASE.

IF I KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT
YOU, I KNOW ONE
THING.

THAT YOU
FORGIVE THOSE
WHO HAVE BEEN
FOOLISH AND COME
TO REGRET THEIR
FOOLISHNESS.



I NEED YOU
TO USE THAT
FORGIVENESS.
ON BOTH OF
US.

ALKYONE
MUST BE STOPPED,
PRINCESS.

I HAVE DONE
MANY MISDEEDS.
BUT I WILL NOT ALLOW
YOU TO SACRIFICE
YOURSELF.

AND WE
HAVE A WAR
TO KILL.



THEY
WILL KILL EACH
OTHER.

YET
SOME WILL
SURVIVE.

THEY WILL
DESPISE US
FOR WHAT WE
HAVE DONE.
THEY WILL
EXECUTE
US.



YES.
AND
HIPPOLYTA
WILL AGAIN
BE QUEEN.



MAKE IT TO
THE BRIDGE!
FIGHT TO THE
BRIDGE!

FOR
DIANA!



MISTRESS...
WHAT IS
HAPPENING?

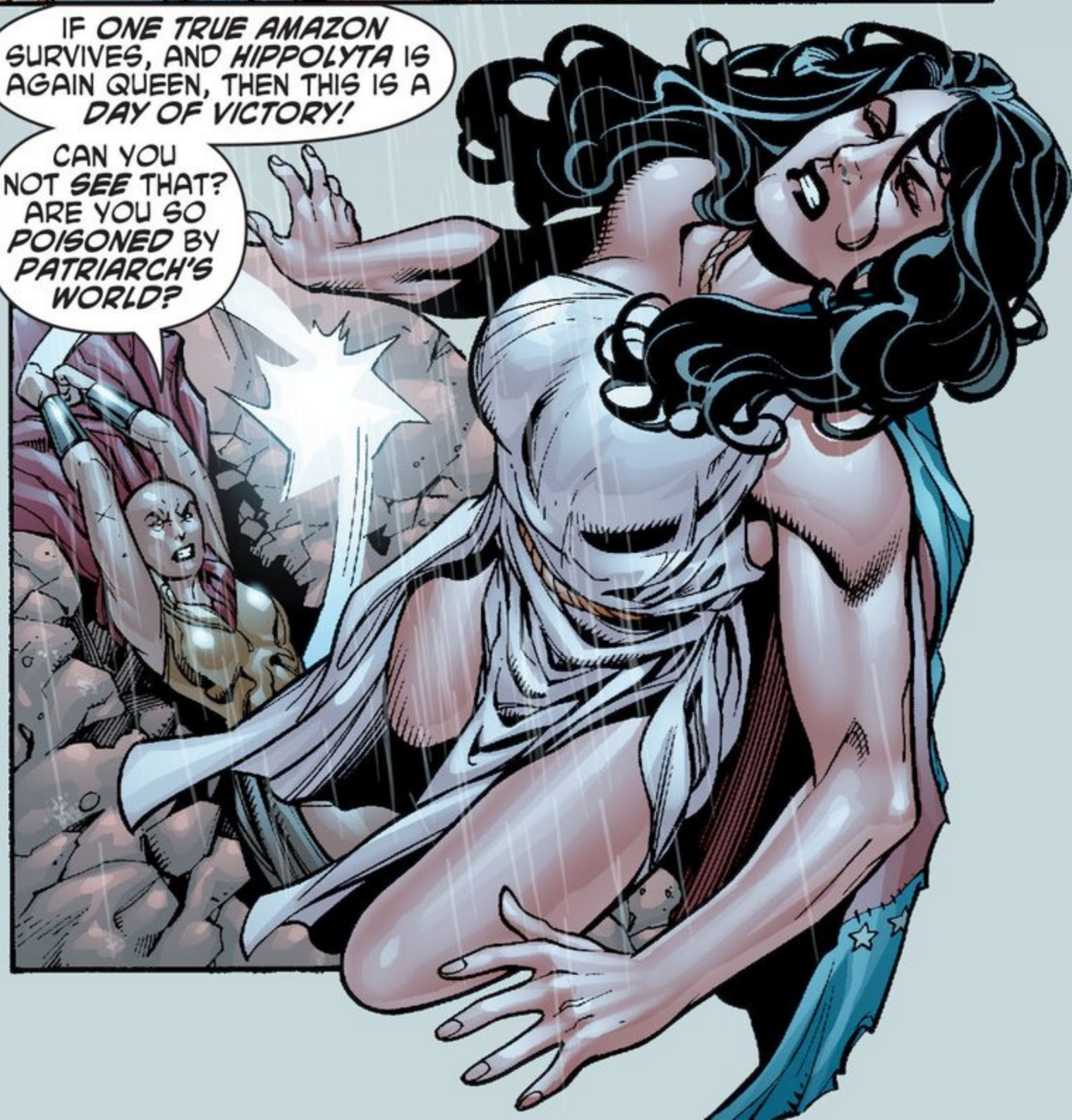
I AM
SORRY,
PHINEA.

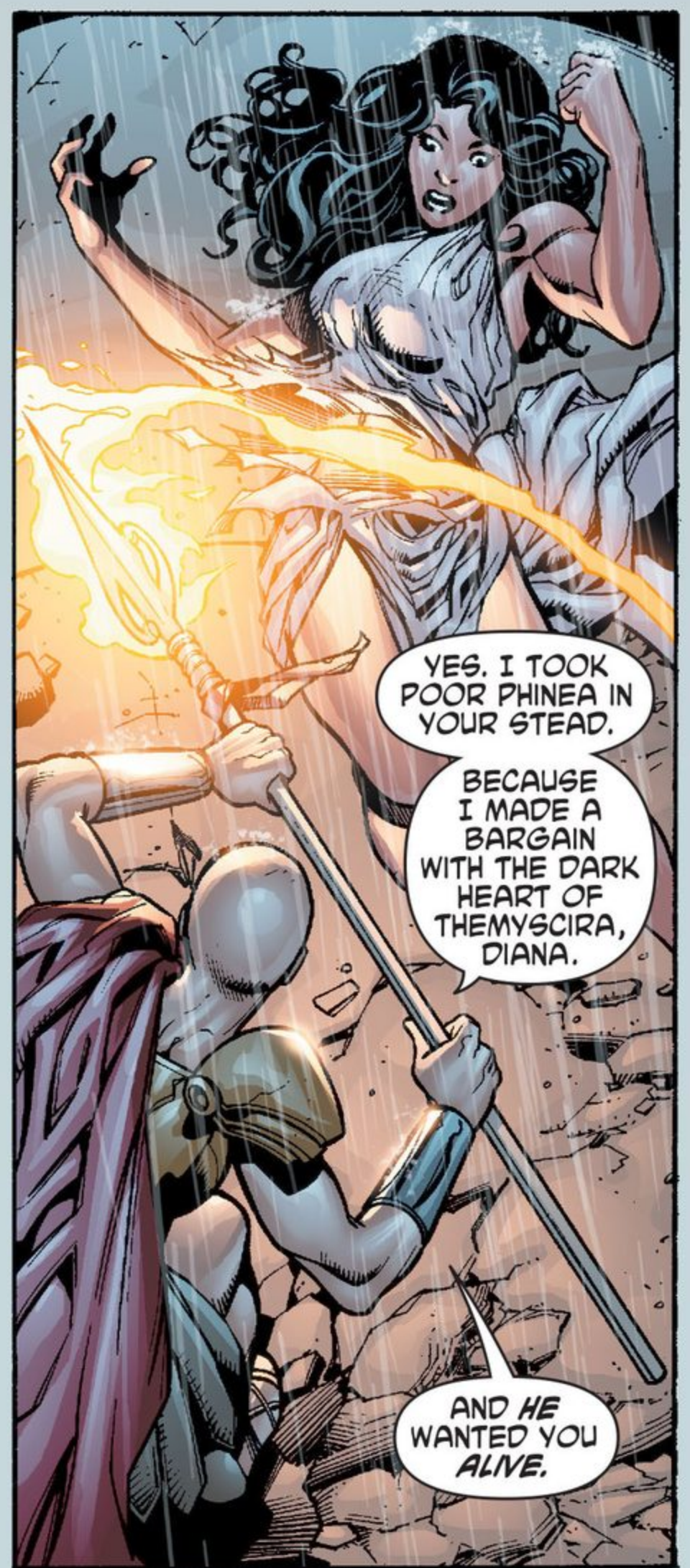
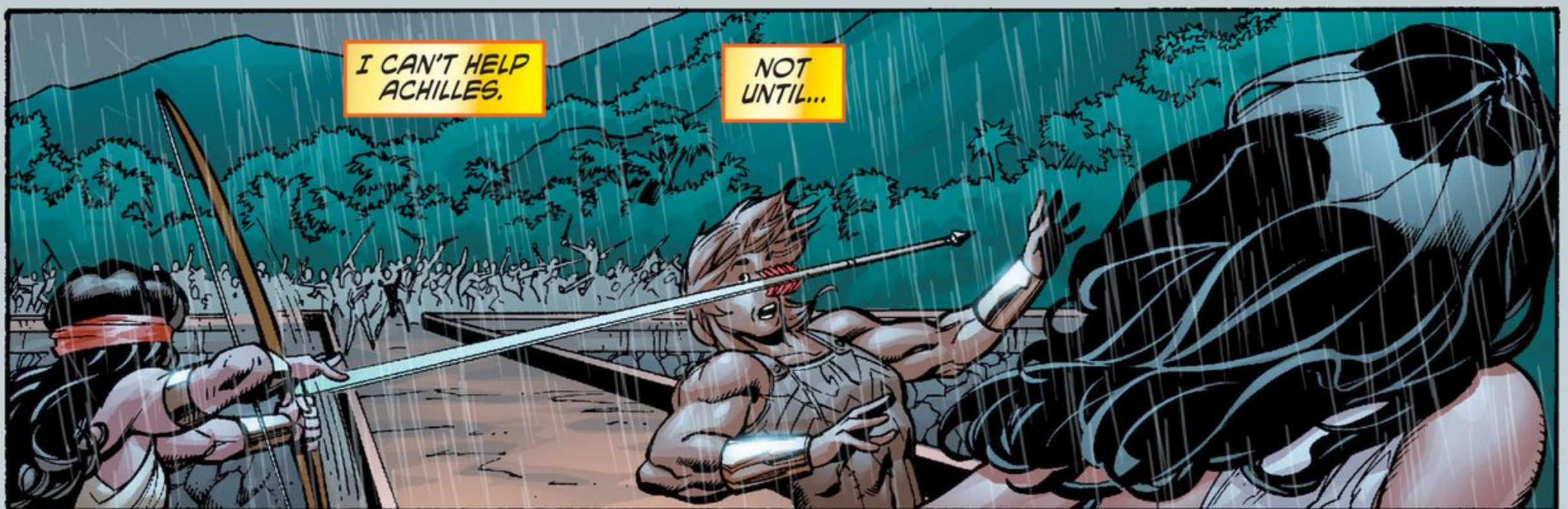
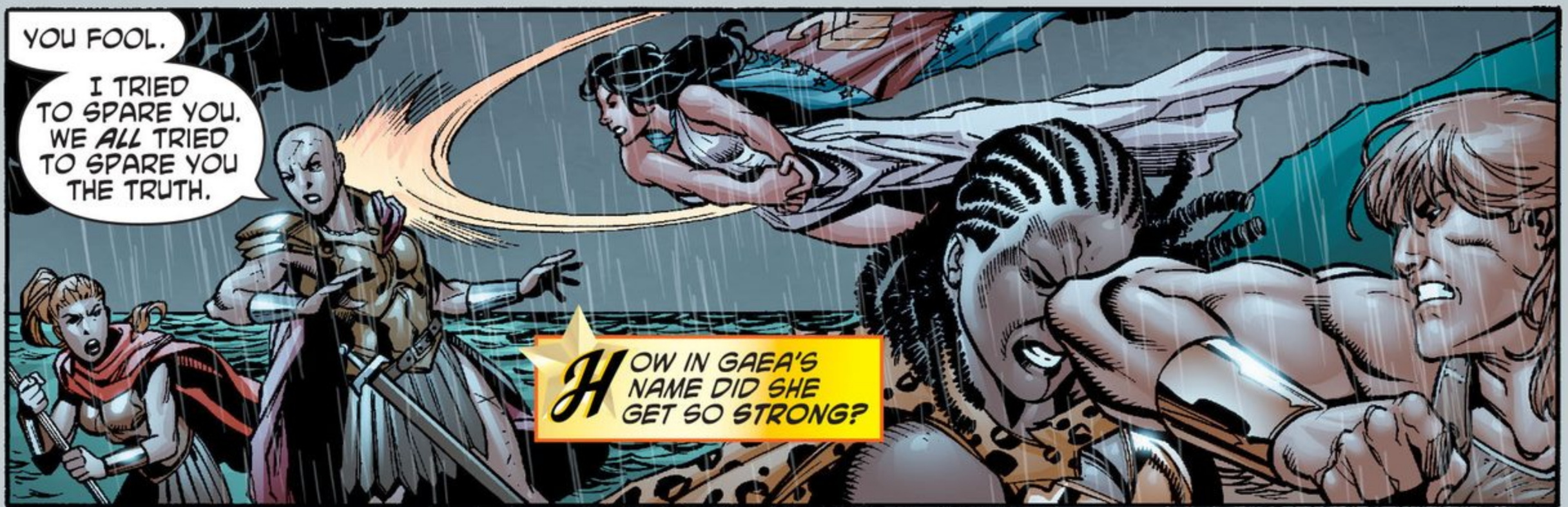


I
LOVED
YOU.



NO.







NEXT: DAWN BEFORE DARKNESS



39

FEB '10

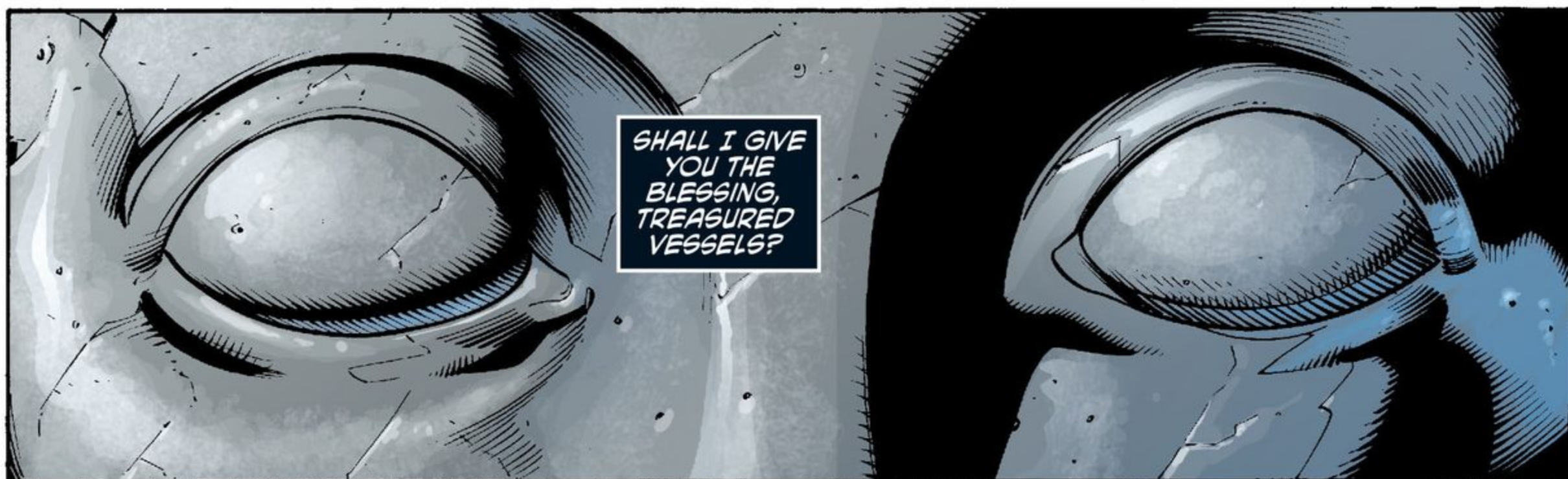
Wonder Woman



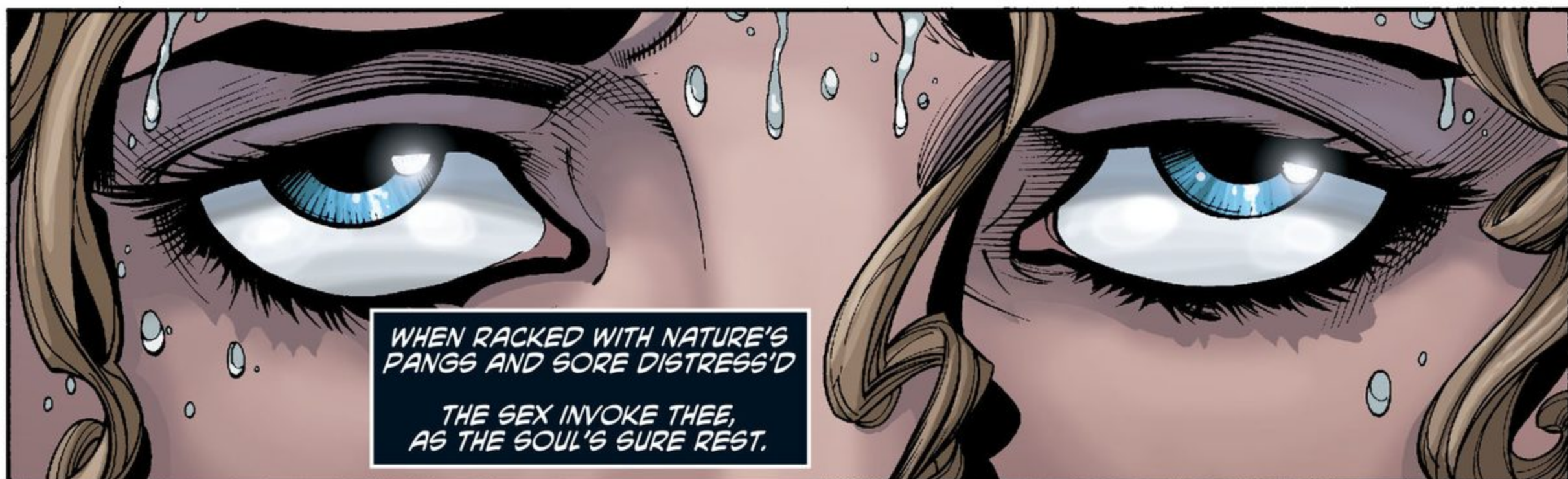
Lopresti '09

GAIL
SIMONE
AARON
LOPRESTI
MATT
RYAN





SHALL I GIVE
YOU THE
BLESSING,
TREASURED
VESSELS?



WHEN RACKED WITH NATURE'S
PANGS AND SORE DISTRESS'D

THE SEX INVOKE THEE,
AS THE SOUL'S SURE REST.



FOR THOU ALONE CANST
GIVE RELIEF TO PAIN

WHICH ART ATTEMPTS TO
EASE BUT TRIES IN VAIN.



AH. THERE,
THERE, BRAVE
ALKISTIS.

YOUR PAIN
IS NEARLY
AT ITS END.

TO
CONTINUE.
=AHEM=



ASSISTING GODDESS,
VENERABLE POWER

WAR KILLER: FINALE DAWN BEFORE DARKNESS

GAIL SIMONE—WRITER
AARON LOPRESTI—PENCILLER
MATT RYAN—INKER
BRAD ANDERSON—COLORIST
TRAVIS LANHAM—LETTERER
SEAN RYAN—ASSOC. EDITOR
BRIAN CUNNINGHAM—EDITOR

WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY
WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

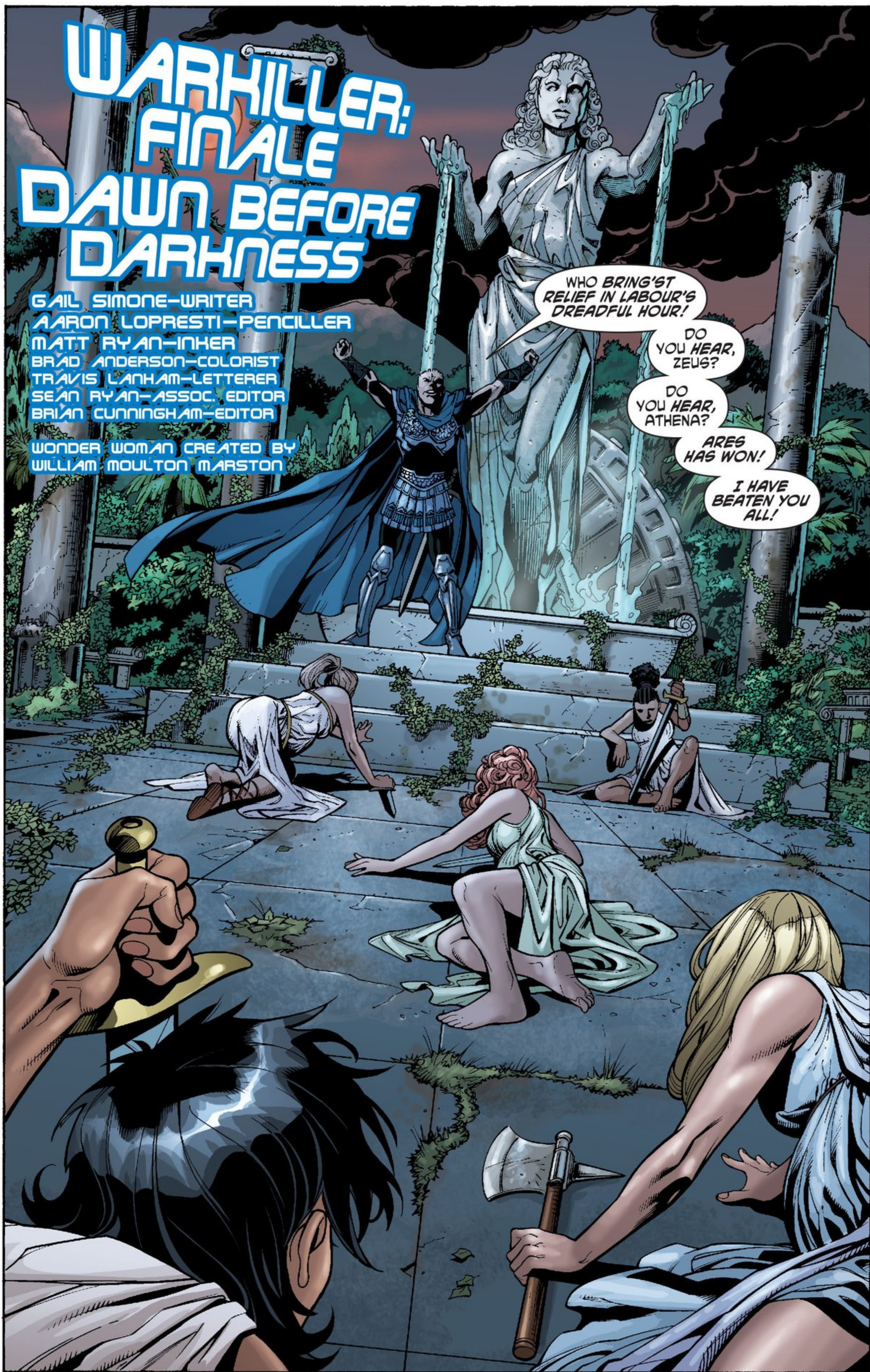
WHO BRING'ST
RELIEF IN LABOUR'S
DREADFUL HOUR?

DO
YOU HEAR,
ZEUS?

DO
YOU HEAR,
ATHENA?

ARES
HAS WON!

I HAVE
BEATEN YOU
ALL!

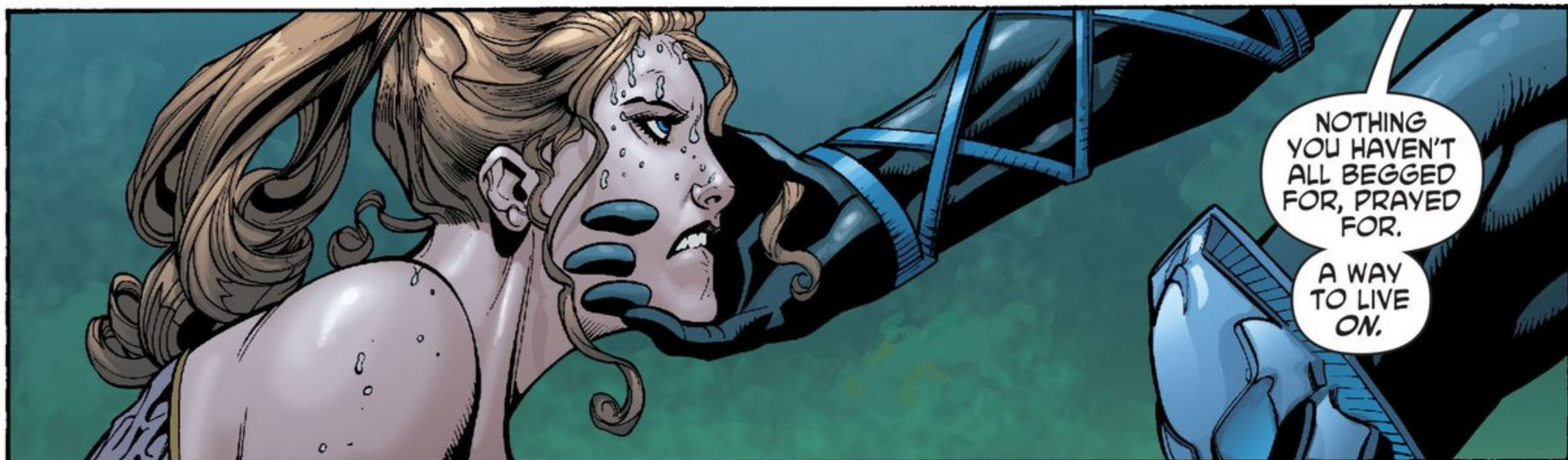




YOU ALL BROUGHT BLADES. THAT WILL BE USEFUL.

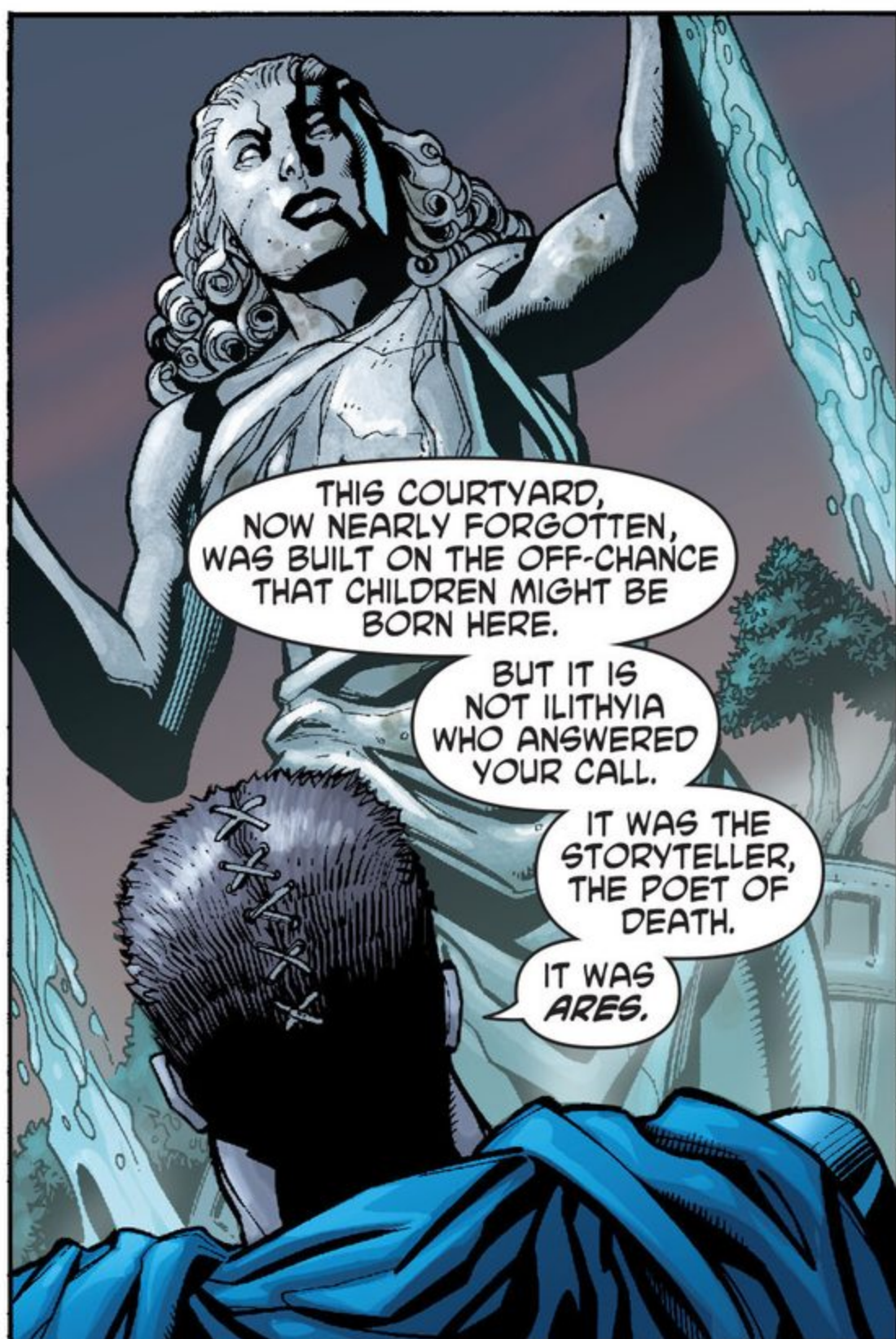
THE CORD WILL BE **STURDY**.

WHAT HAVE YOU... WHAT HAVE YOU **DONE** TO US?



NOTHING YOU HAVEN'T ALL BEGGED FOR, PRAYED FOR.

A WAY TO LIVE ON.



THIS COURTYARD, NOW NEARLY FORGOTTEN, WAS BUILT ON THE OFF-CHANCE THAT CHILDREN MIGHT BE BORN HERE.

BUT IT IS NOT ILITHYIA WHO ANSWERED YOUR CALL.

IT WAS THE STORYTELLER, THE POET OF DEATH.

IT WAS **ARES**.



I WILL KILL THE BOTH OF US. I WILL NOT BEAR YOUR SHAME!

NO. DIANA AND HER PEOPLE WILL BE PUNISHED.

YOU WILL SLEEP. AND THE BABES WILL BE NURSED BY BEASTS OF MY OWN CHOOSING.



AND ONCE ASLEEP, YOU WILL NEVER AWAKEN.

BE GRATEFUL FOR THAT, AT LEAST.



I DID THIS TO SAVE OUR PEOPLE, DIANA.

I HAVE MADE **TERRIBLE** CHOICES.

I NEVER WANTED TO BE QUEEN.

I JUST WANTED... I WANTED THINGS NEVER TO CHANGE.

YOUR BEAUTIFUL MOTHER, AND MY **CIRCLE** TO WATCH OVER HER UNTIL THE END OF TIME.



YOU MURDERED PHINEA AS A BLOOD SACRIFICE?

TO CALL THIS **THING** TO ME?



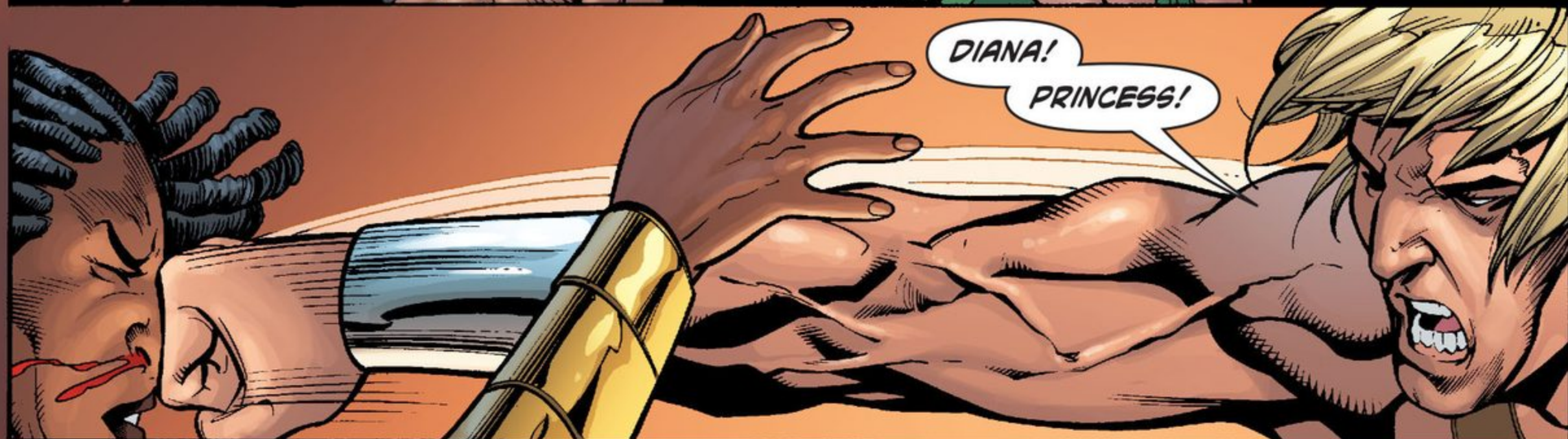
I WOULD KILL A **HUNDRED** AMAZONS IF NEEDED!

YOU SHOULD **NEVER** HAVE BEEN BORN!

NOW...



...LET YOUR **FATHER** TAKE BACK THE VERY **MAKINGS** OF YOU!







YOUR
MOTHER
STOLE FROM
ME.

I WILL HAVE
MY OWN BACK,
DAUGHTER.
FLESH OF MY
FLESH.



SHE CUT
ME.

SHE DID
NOT ASK
MY LEAVE.



I WATCHED AS SHE
SCRAPED THE CLAY
FROM THE WALLS OF
MY HOME UNDER
THEMYSCIRA.

CLAY RICH
WITH THE
ESSENCE OF
MY BEING,
THE SKIN OF
MY OWN LIFE.



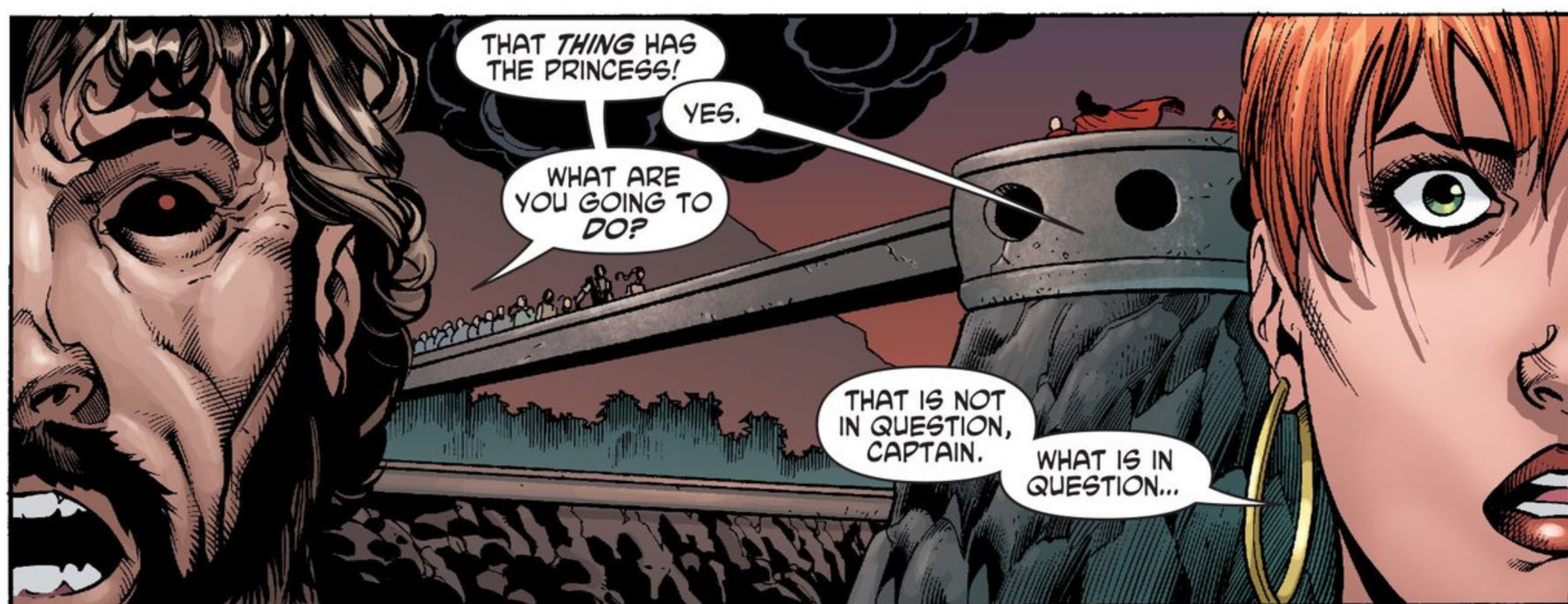
IT HELPED
MAKE YOU
STRONG AND
FIERCE.

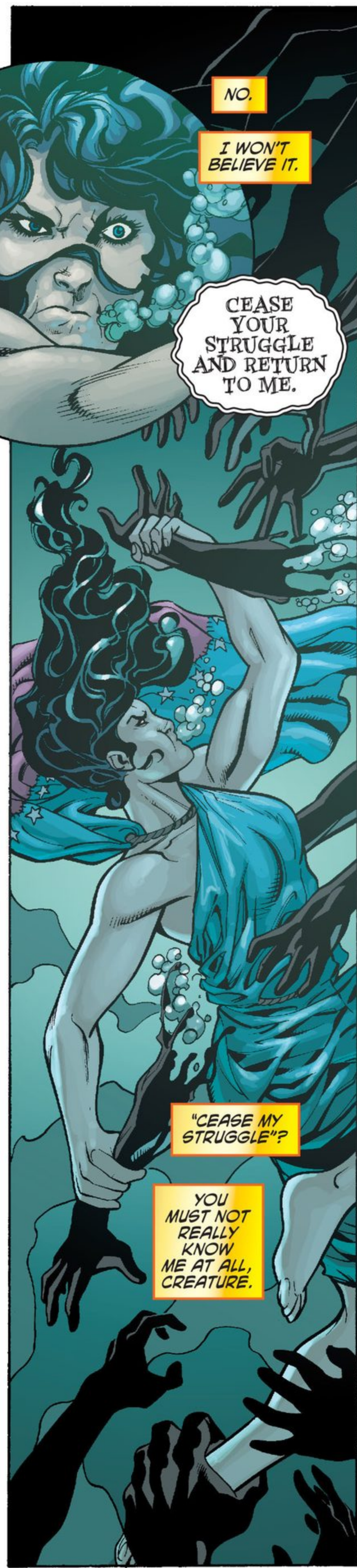
BUT IT
BELONGED
TO ME.



THAT THEFT
MADE ME
RAGE.

AND THAT
FURY MAKES
ME
INVINCIBLE.







9 NEVER
"CEASE."



IT SCREAMS
IN THE HIDDEN
CORNERS OF
MY MIND.

IT'S LIVED
IN SOLITARY
DARKNESS
ALL ITS LIFE.

AND IT
KNOWS MY
THOUGHTS.



ITS
BLOOD.

BURNING
LIKE ACID.



THEY DIDN'T
EVEN BOTHER
TO FIGHT US.

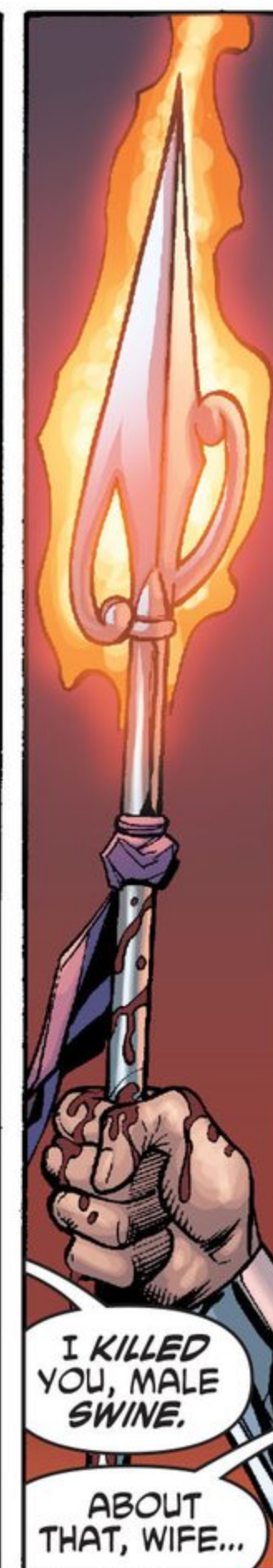
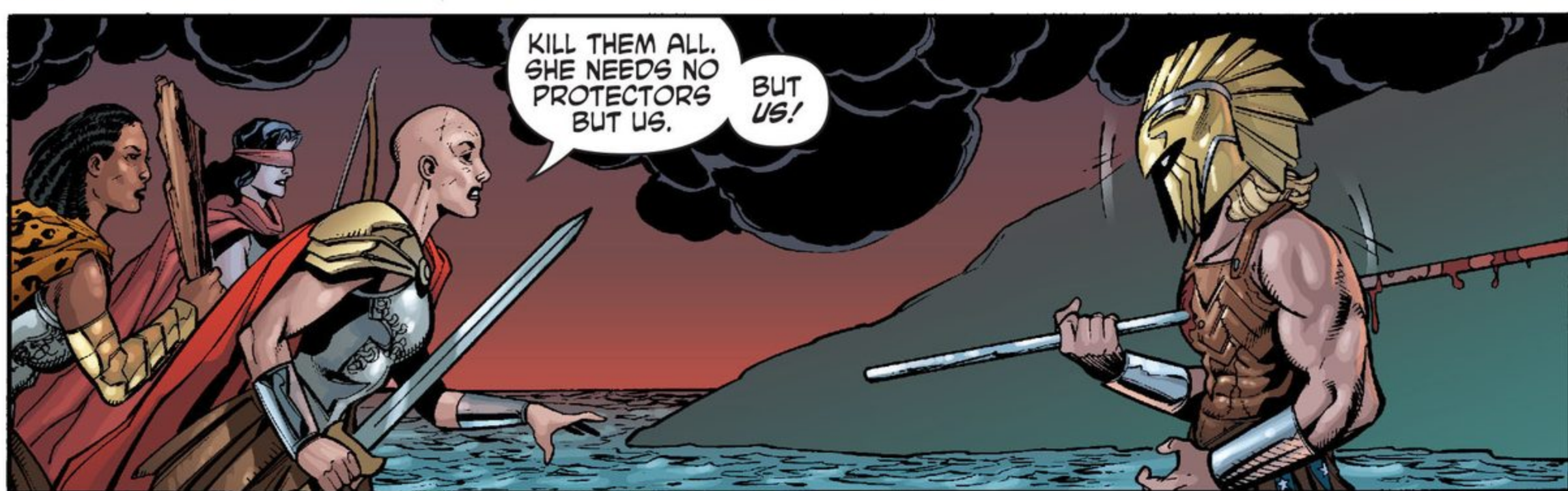
THEIR ONLY
THOUGHTS ARE
OF THE PRIN...

... THE
DRAGON.



ALDYONE,
COULD WE...
COULD WE HAVE
BEEN WRONG
ABOUT HER?

THEY ALL
LOVE HER SO.
MORE THAN
THEIR OWN
LIVES.





A^{H.}

MY
SISTERS.

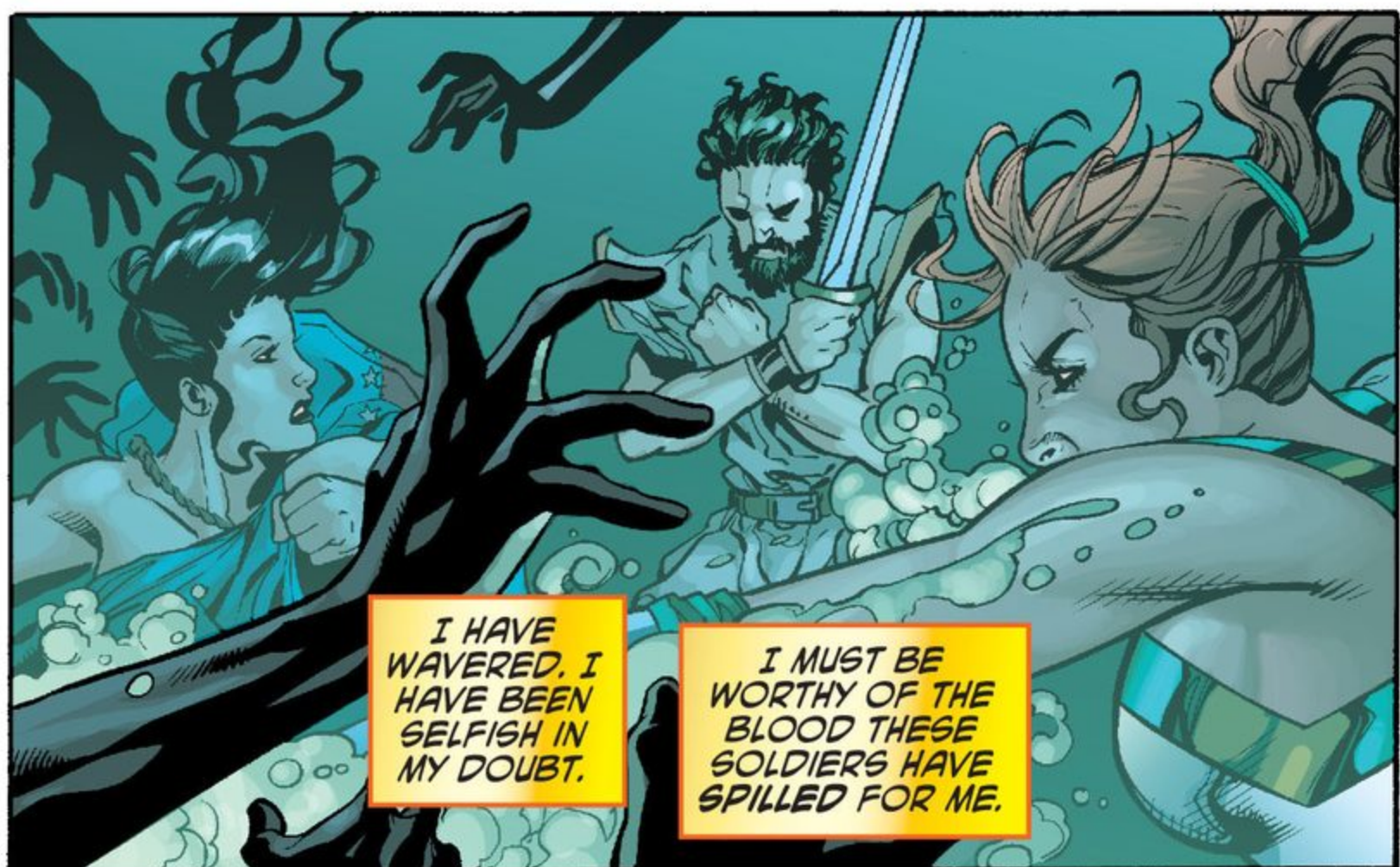
AND THE
THALARIONS,
BLESS THEIR
COURAGE.

LED BY...
YES, LED BY
ARTEMIS.



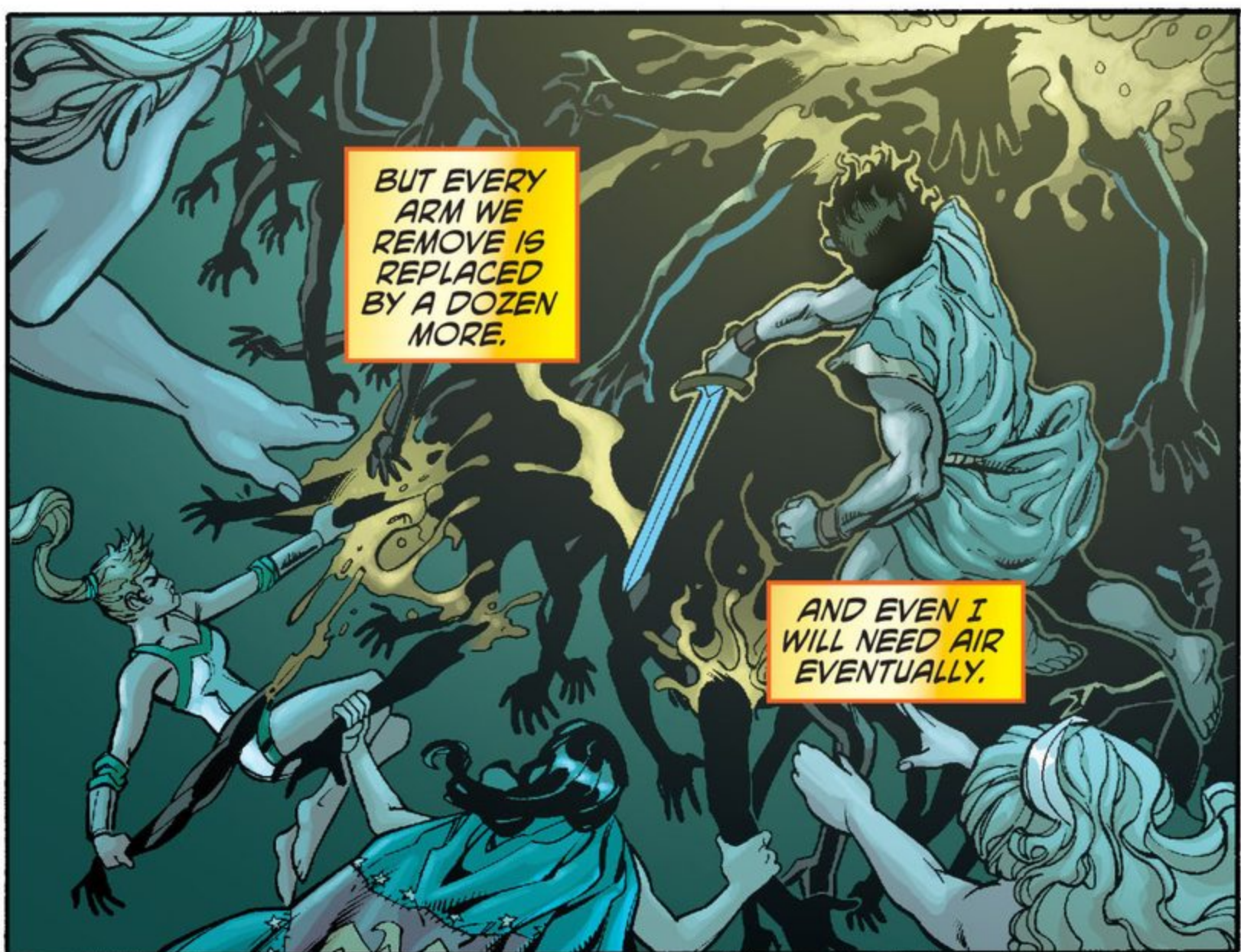
NOT THE
POLITE DINNER
GUEST, NO.

BUT GODS,
HOW I LOVE
EVERY BIT
OF HER.



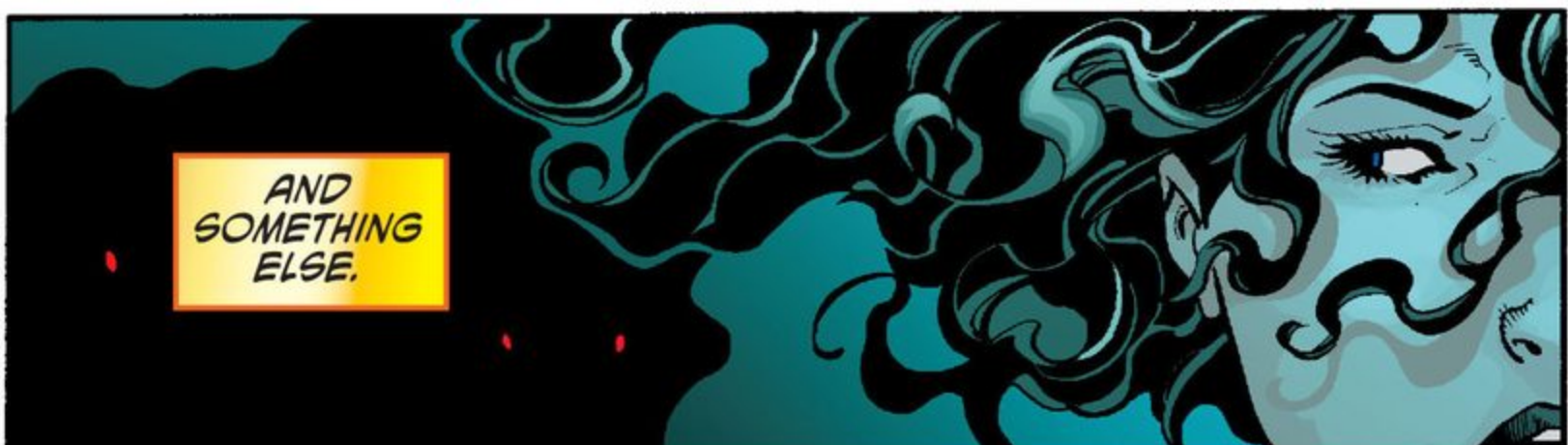
I HAVE
WAVERED. I
HAVE BEEN
SELFISH IN
MY DOUBT.

I MUST BE
WORTHY OF THE
BLOOD THESE
SOLDIERS HAVE
SPILLED FOR ME.

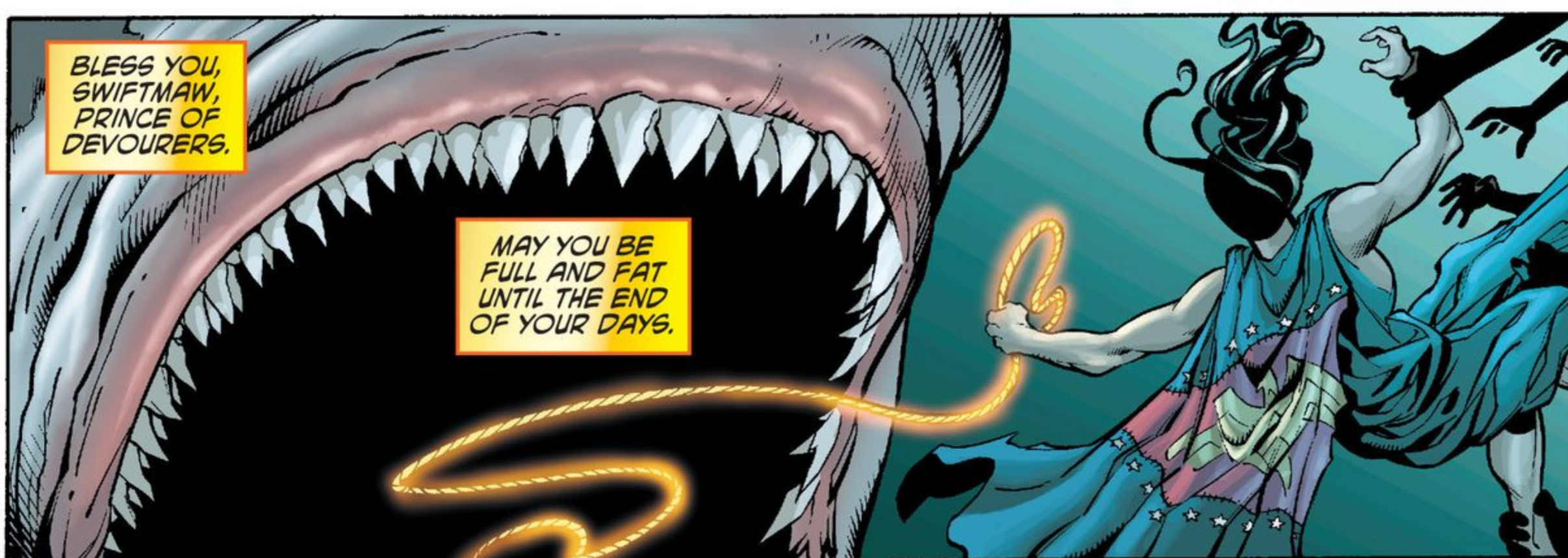


BUT EVERY
ARM WE
REMOVE IS
REPLACED
BY A DOZEN
MORE.

AND EVEN I
WILL NEED AIR
EVENTUALLY.



AND
SOMETHING
ELSE.





NOT QUITE
THE PROTECTION
OF THESE PEOPLE
YOU PROMISED ME,
LORD ZEUS,
IS IT?

IT IS
NOT.



ATHENA?

IN THE
GUISE OF
THIS AMAZON,
YES. IT
IS I.



I AM
GLAD OF YOUR
COMPANY.

AT THIS
TIME OF MY
FAILURE.



WHEN THOSE
JACKALS,
THOSE NEW
PRETENDERS,
KIDNAPPED
US WITH SUCH
EASE, AND SUCH
ARROGANCE...

...SUCH CAPACITY
FOR CRUELTY.

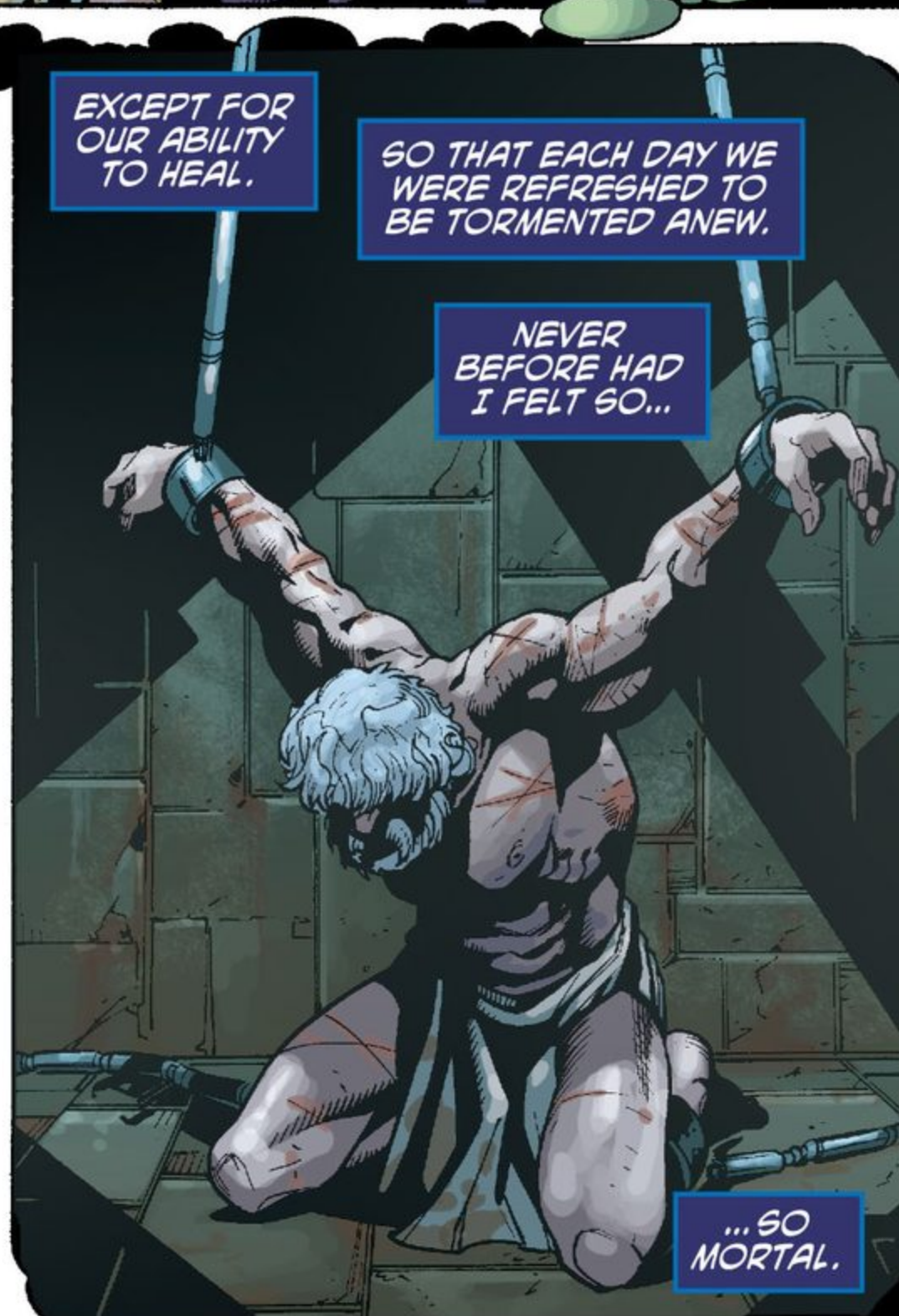
I CAME TO
THE BELIEF THAT
OUR TIME HAD
PASSED. FINALLY
PASSED.



THE ENDLESS TORTURE WE
SUFFERED IN SECRET SILENCE.

FOR NO
REASON
OTHER THAN
TO REMOVE
OUR POTENTIAL
THREAT.

BEREFT OF
OUR GIFTS
AND OUR
COURAGE.

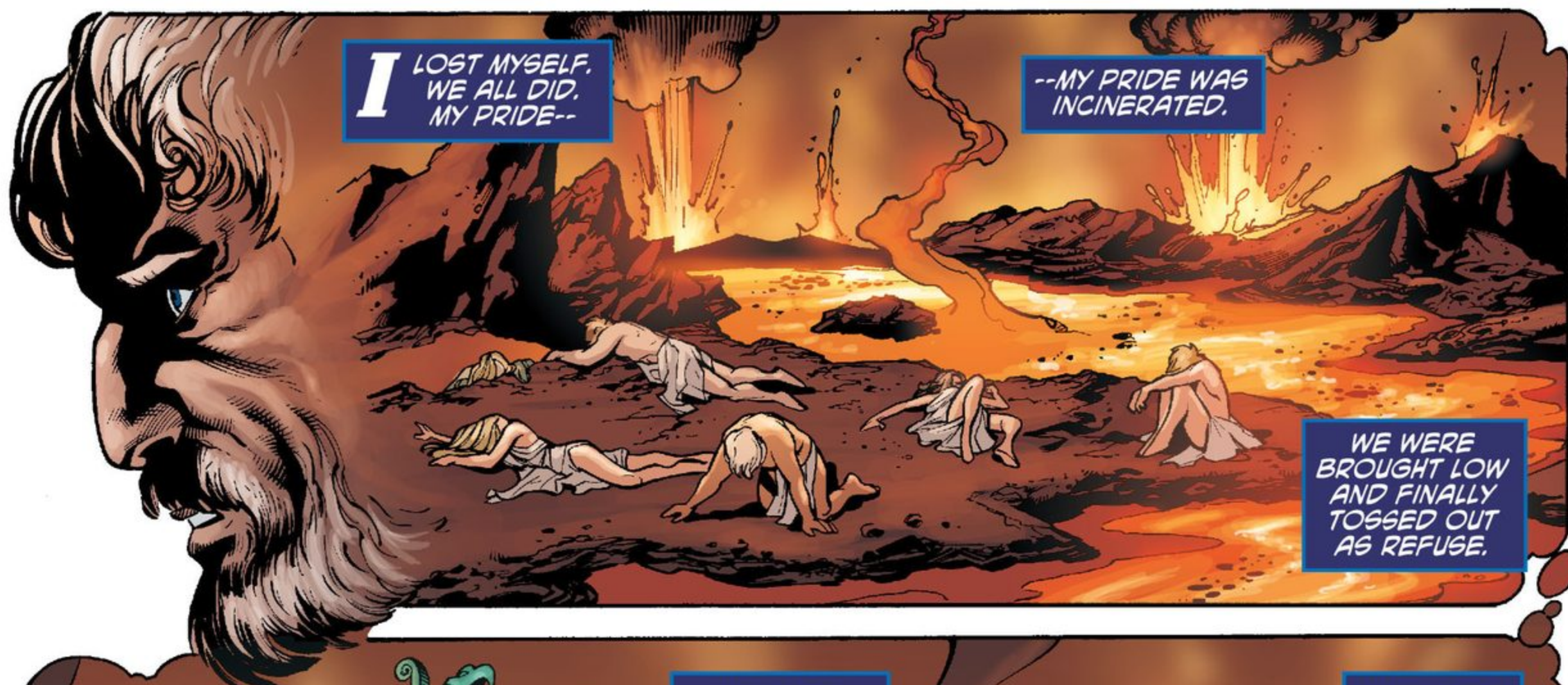


EXCEPT FOR
OUR ABILITY
TO HEAL.

SO THAT EACH DAY WE
WERE REFRESHED TO
BE TORTURED ANEW.

NEVER
BEFORE HAD
I FELT SO...

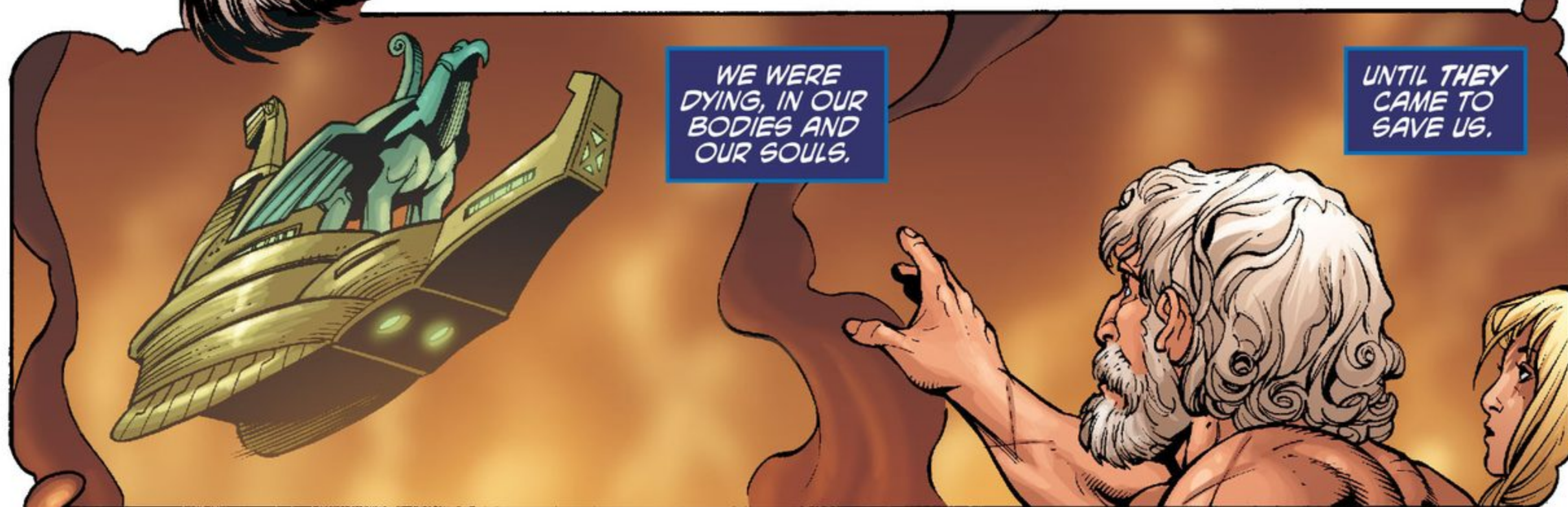
...SO
MORTAL.



I LOST MYSELF.
WE ALL DID.
MY PRIDE--

--MY PRIDE WAS
INCINERATED.

WE WERE
BROUGHT LOW
AND FINALLY
TOSSED OUT
AS REFUSE.



WE WERE
DYING, IN OUR
BODIES AND
OUR SOULS.

UNTIL THEY
CAME TO
SAVE US.



THE ICHOR, THE
JUDGES AND
SAVIORS OF THE
GODS OF ALL
WORLDS.

ABOVE
GOOD AND EVIL,
ABOVE MORTAL
UNDERSTANDING.



THEY GAVE US THE SOUL
SUITS THAT SLOWLY
REBUILT OUR BODIES
AND HEALED OUR
HEARTS. THAT ALLOWED
US TO THINK AGAIN.

ALLOWED ME TO
FEEL REGRET FOR
THE FIRST TIME IN
THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

AND FOGGED OUR
MEMORIES OF OUR
TORTURE AND
HUMILIATION AS A
FINAL KINDNESS.



ALL OUR
CAPTORS
WANTED,
ALL THEY
BELIEVED
IN...

...WAS
THE
ELIMINATION
OF FREE
WILL.

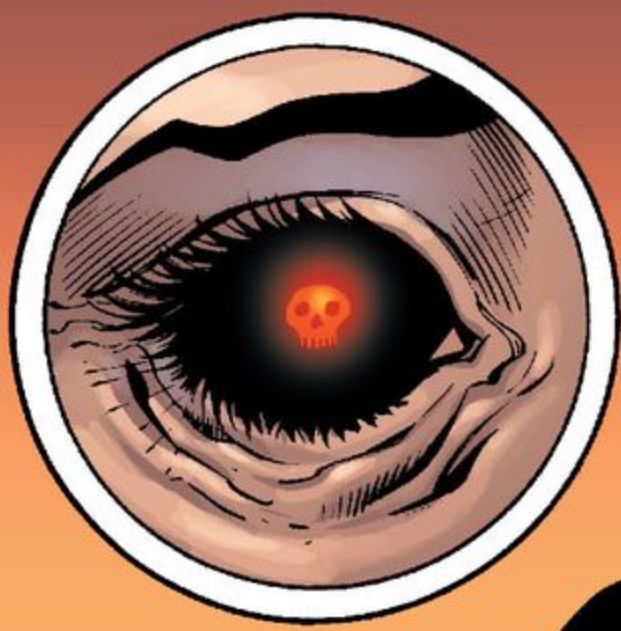
I
LOATHED AND
PITIETED THEM
FOR IT, AND THEN
WHEN GIVEN A
PEOPLE TO LEAD
ONCE AGAIN, I
BECAME THE
SAME.

I HAVE
BATHED IN
INNOCENT
BLOOD.

I WANT
TO REPAIR
THIS, ATHENA.
I NEED TO
REPAIR
THIS.

BUT I HAVE NO
CONCEPTION
OF HOW.





THP
THP
THP



WELL,
THEN...

I
RESPECTFULLY
RENOUNCE
YOUR ACTIONS,
CAPTAIN.

AMPUTATE MY LIMBS AND I PRODUCE MORE.

TEAR MY FLESH AND I BURN YOURS IN RETURN.

I AM NOW AS STRONG AS MY HATE, DAUGHTER.

IT MAY BE TRUE, ABOUT ITS STRENGTH.

BUT WEAPONS OR NO, CEREMONIAL UNIFORM OR NO...

I HAVE SOME ASSETS OF MY OWN.

MY ALLIES, OLD AND NEW, FOR ONE.

AND MORE.

KILL THEM! KILL THE IMPOSTORS!

KILL THEM ALL!

THE EYES OF ARTEMIS THE HUNTER.

THE SPEED OF HERMES.

I TOLD YOU SHE WAS OUR DOOM.



AND THE FULL
STUBBORNNESS
OF THE AMAZON
RACE!



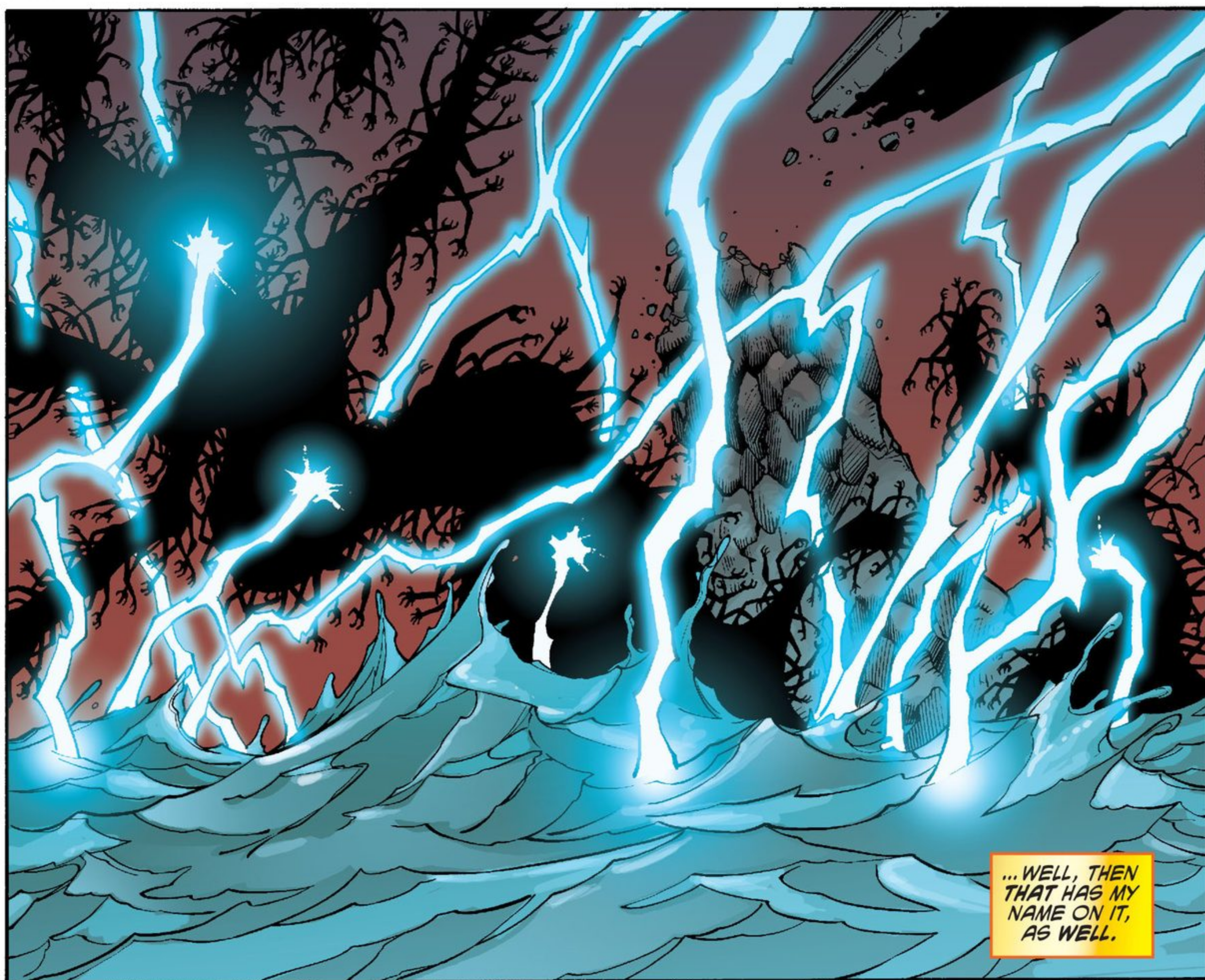
THESE DON'T
BELONG TO YOU,
CAPTAIN. THEY
WERE A GIFT TO
ME ALONE.



AND
WHATEVER
WEIRD
ESSENCE
POWERS
THEM NOW...



... WHATEVER
HELL THEY
UNLEASH...



... WELL, THEN
THAT HAS MY
NAME ON IT,
AS WELL.



AND THAT NAME, ONCE AND FOR ALL TIME...

...IS PRINCESS DIANA.

I THOUGHT THAT GIFT MIGHT BE USEFUL AT SOME POINT. I MERELY UNLOCKED THE CODE THAT HAD ALWAYS BEEN IN YOUR BRACELETS. THEY *WERE* MADE FROM MY AEGIS, AFTER ALL.

TAKE MY HAND, CHILD.

NO!



HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH, ZEUS?

I PROMISE, IF YOU TOUCH HER AGAIN, GOD OR NO...

...I *WILL* FIGHT YOU!



AS WILL I, LORD.



THEY SPEAK FOR US ALL, KING OF GODS.

WE STAND TOGETHER.

LIVE OR DIE.



I AM OLD, CHILDREN.

I CANNOT DO THE TASK THAT WAS APPOINTED TO ME.

THE ICHOR SPOKE TO ME, ON OUR JOURNEY HOME.



"THEY WANTED ME TO CHOOSE THE MOST WORTHY AMONG MY PEOPLE, TO JOIN THEM. TO BE SOMETHING GREATER THAN A GOD. THEY WANTED..."

"...AN OLYMPIAN."



I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ACHILLES.

NOBLE, FIERCE, LOYAL ACHILLES.



BUT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN YOU.

YOU, WHO UNITED ALL THESE FIERCE BEINGS WHEN I COULD NOT.

YOU, WHO CONQUERED EVERY TRIAL.



LORD ZEUS, I...

I CAN'T ACCEPT. I ONLY MOMENTS AGO REDISCOVERED MY PLACE ON THIS ISLAND.

YES. YOU NEED SAY NO MORE, CHILD. PERHAPS A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT CAN BE FOUND YET.

COME TO ME, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.



BE JOYFUL.

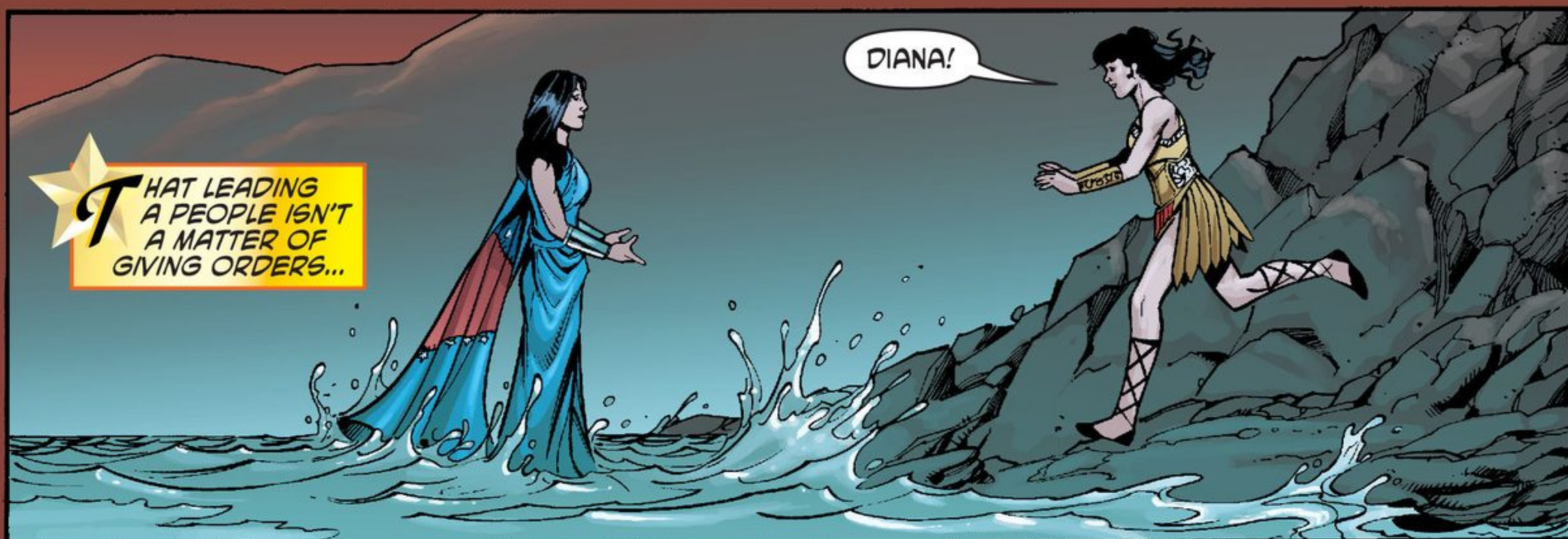
YOU HAVE EARNED IT.



AND THANK YOU FOR REMINDING ME WHAT IT MEANS TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

PRINCESS OF THE AMAZONS.

COULD HE HAVE LEARNED AT LAST?



DIANA!

...BUT OF WINNING HEARTS?



CAN YOU FORGIVE ME, DAUGHTER?

I CANNOT FORGIVE WHAT I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN.

MOTHER, WAS THAT... THING REALLY MY FATHER?



NEVER.

NO MORE THAN THE RAIN IN THE SKY THAT NIGHT.

YOU ARE THE DAUGHTER OF THE AMAZONS, DIANA.

"AND THAT IS ENOUGH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY FAITHFUL DAUGHTER!"



SO YOU GO TO LIVE WITH THE ICHOR, ZEUS?

YES, GHOST OF ARES. BUT BEFORE I LEAVE, I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN BEHIND MUCH OF THE EVIL THESE BRAVE PEOPLE HAVE FACED.

AND I HEREBY BANISH YOUR BODY AND SPIRIT FROM THEMISCIRA FOREVER.

THOUGHT YOU MIGHT.

IT'S FINE.

I NEED MORE SPACE FOR MY GROWING FAMILY ANYWAY.



THE END...FOR NOW!



DC

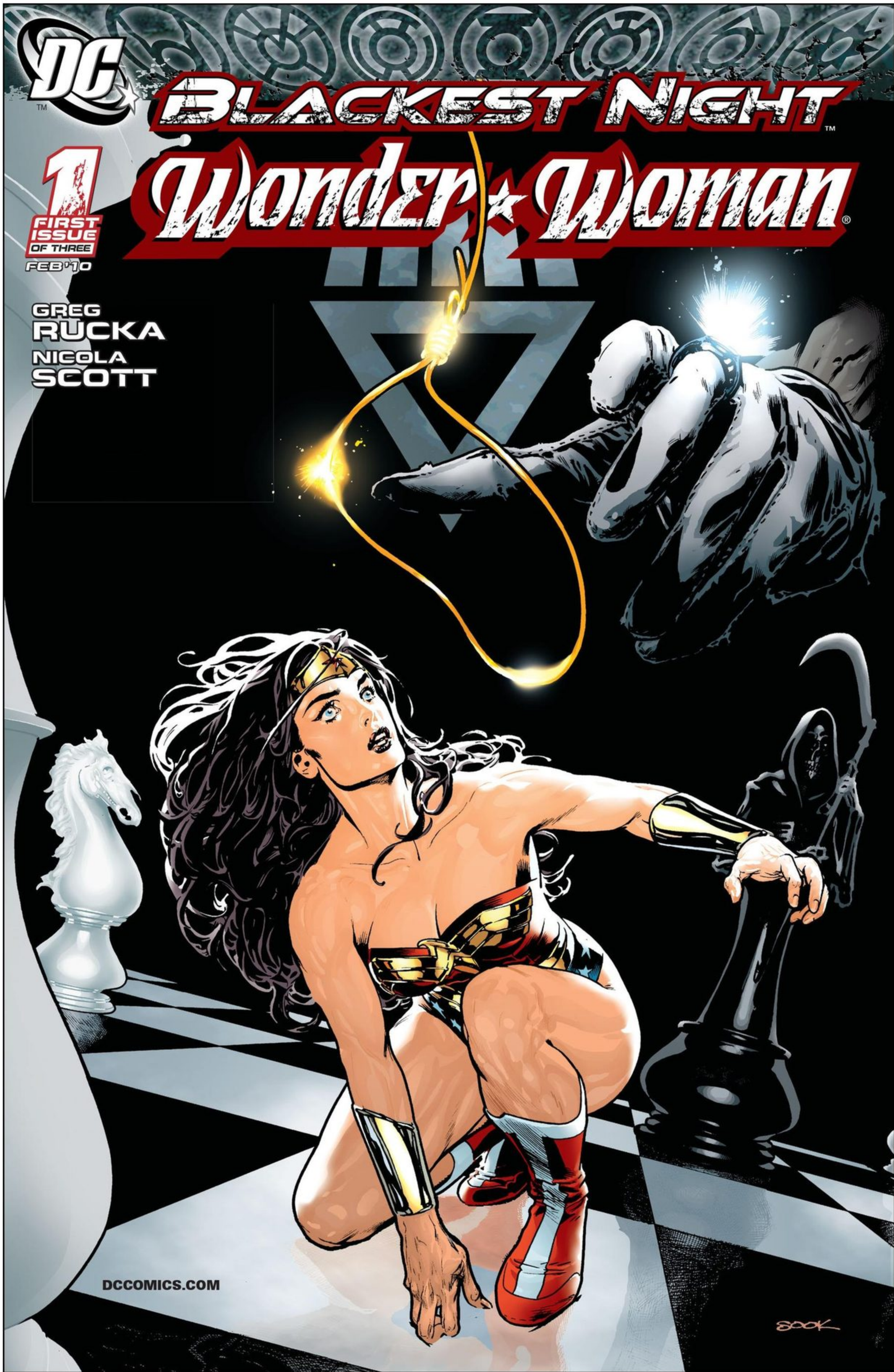
BLACKEST NIGHT

1
FIRST
ISSUE
OF THREE
FEB '10

Wonder Woman

GREG
RUCKA
NICOLA
SCOTT

DCCOMICS.COM



BLACKEST NIGHT

1
FIRST
ISSUE
OF THREE
FEB '10

Wonder Woman

GREG
RUCKA
NICOLA
SCOTT

DCCOMICS.COM

BOOK

9 WALK WITH
DEATH.

I DO NOT
FOLLOW DEATH.
NOR DO I LEAD.

READY
FOR A
REMATCH?

RATHER, DEATH IS
AT MY SIDE, THE
UNEASY, CONSTANT
COMPANION
OF ANY WARRIOR.

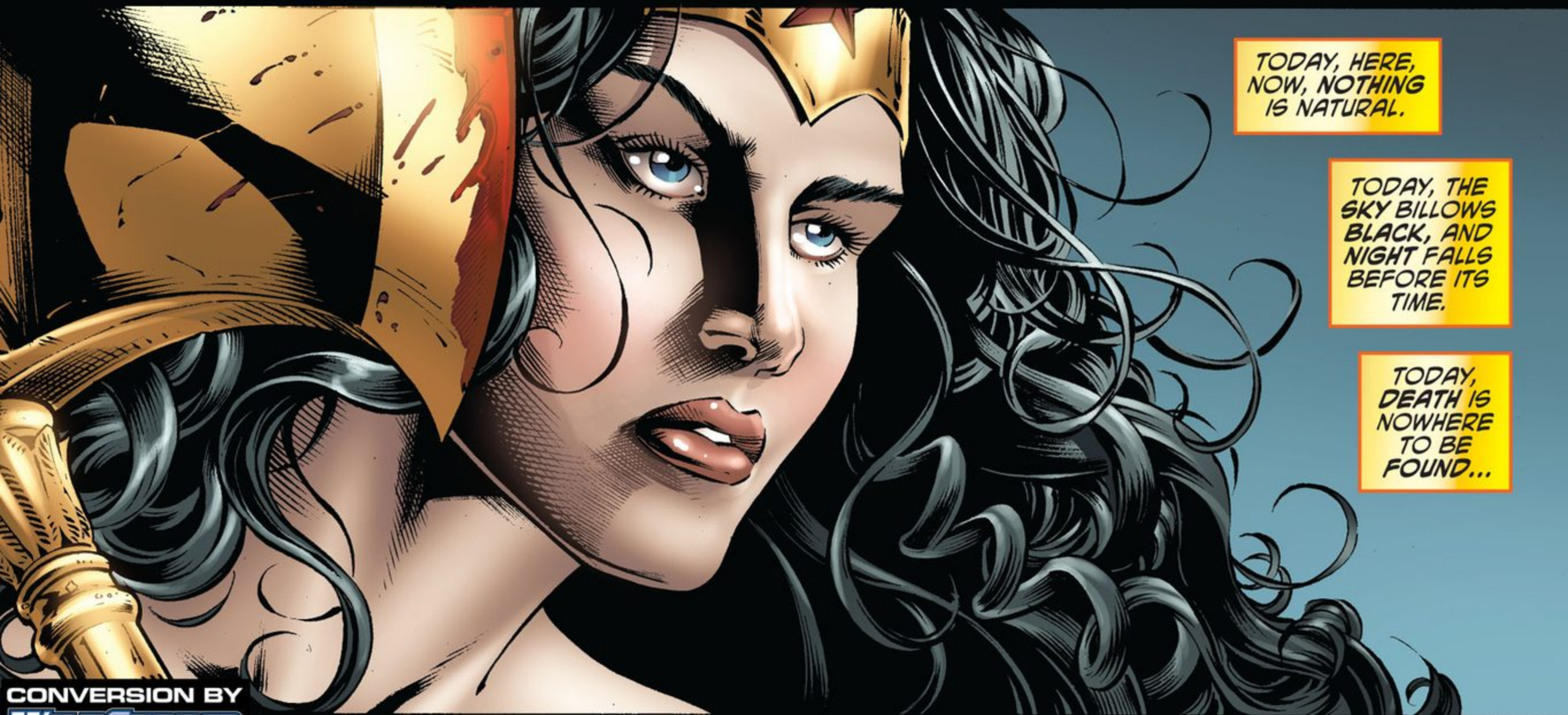
I WOULD
SAY THE SAME
OF ALL OF US
WHO LIVE.

DEATH IS
THE NATURAL
RESULT OF
LIFE.

TODAY, HERE,
NOW, NOTHING
IS NATURAL.

TODAY, THE
SKY BILLOWS
BLACK, AND
NIGHT FALLS
BEFORE ITS
TIME.

TODAY,
DEATH IS
NOWHERE
TO BE
FOUND...



ONLY
MURDER.

Wonder Woman

BLACKEST NIGHT

PART ONE: THE LIVING

script: GREG RUCKA pencils: NICOLA SCOTT
inks: PRENTIS ROLLINS, JONATHAN GLAPION, WALDEN WONG & DREW GERACI
colors: NEI RUFFINO letters: TRAVIS LANHAM cover: GREG HORN
variant cover: RYAN SOOK assoc. editor: ADAM SCHLAGMAN editor: EDDIE BERGANZA
WONDER WOMAN created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

PRINCESS OF THEMYSCLRA, THE AMAZON KNOWN AS DIANA, IS EMPOWERED BY THE GREEK GODS THEMSELVES WITH SUPREME WISDOM, STRENGTH, SPEED, AND BEAUTY. HAVING LEFT HER HOME, SHE LIVES AMONG US, STRIVING TO PROTECT AND DEFEND THE INNOCENT, WHILE LEADING THE WORLD TO A BETTER TOMORROW.



9 ACCEPT DEATH. I HAVE LEARNED TO.

I HAVE LOST MANY TO ITS CALL.

FAR TOO MANY.

I AM AN AMAZON. I HAVE HAD NO CHOICE.

BUT I AM AN AMAZON, AND MURDER SICKENS ME, STILL.

IT IS A MONSTROUS ACT.

THE MONSTER THAT HAS WROUGHT ALL THIS HAS A NAME I KNOW WELL.

MAXWELL LORD.

I SLEW HIM ONCE.

I WILL NOT HESITATE TO DO SO AGAIN.



I HAVE LIVED
THROUGH
DEATH MYSELF.

I DID NOT
CARE FOR IT.

THE DEMON
NERON
ASSAULTED
MY SOUL,
RAKED AND
BURNT IT.

I LINGERED FOR
DAYS BEFORE
FINALLY DYING.

I SPEAK FROM
EXPERIENCE WHEN I SAY
THAT LIVING IS BETTER, NO
MATTER HOW HARD, NO
MATTER HOW PAINFUL.



THE BLACK LANTERNS ARE NOT
WHAT NOR WHO THEY APPEAR TO
BE. RAY PALMER, THE ATOM--AS
COMPASSIONATE A SOUL AS I
HAVE MET--HAS CONFIRMED THIS:

THE RING
WEARS THE
BODY, NOT THE
BODY WEARS
THE RING. THUS
THE RING IS NOT
THE PERSON, ONLY
ITS FORM, ITS
SHAPE, ITS
MEMORIES.

AND ITS
POWERS.

MAXWELL LORD'S POWER WAS TO
TURN PEOPLE INTO PUPPETS TO
DANCE ON HIS STRING.

TO ENSLAVE
THEM TO
HIS WILL.



THE BLACK LANTERNS,
I AM TOLD, FEED ON
EMOTIONS, INCITING
THEM TO THE HIGHEST
PITCH BEFORE FEASTING.

I KNOW WHAT
MAX WANTS. I
KNOW WHY HE'S
DOING IT.



HE WANTS ME ANGRY.



HE SLAUGHTERS INNOCENTS TO TAUNT ME.



HE LAYS A TRAIL TO HALLOWED GROUND, A FIELD OF FALLEN WARRIORS WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.



THE CHOICE OF PLACE IS ENOUGH.



HE PROMISES MORE SACRILEGE TO COME.

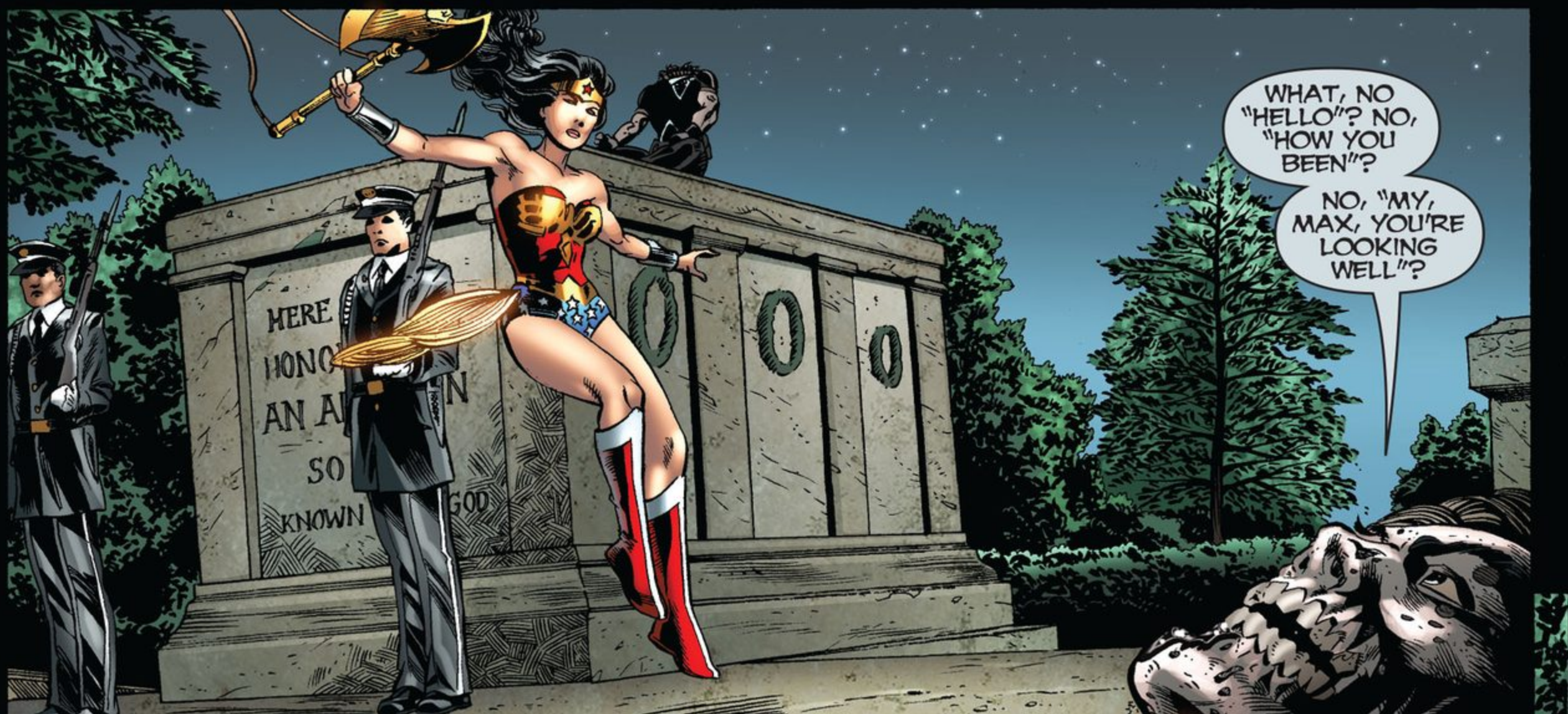
HE WANTS ME ANGRY.

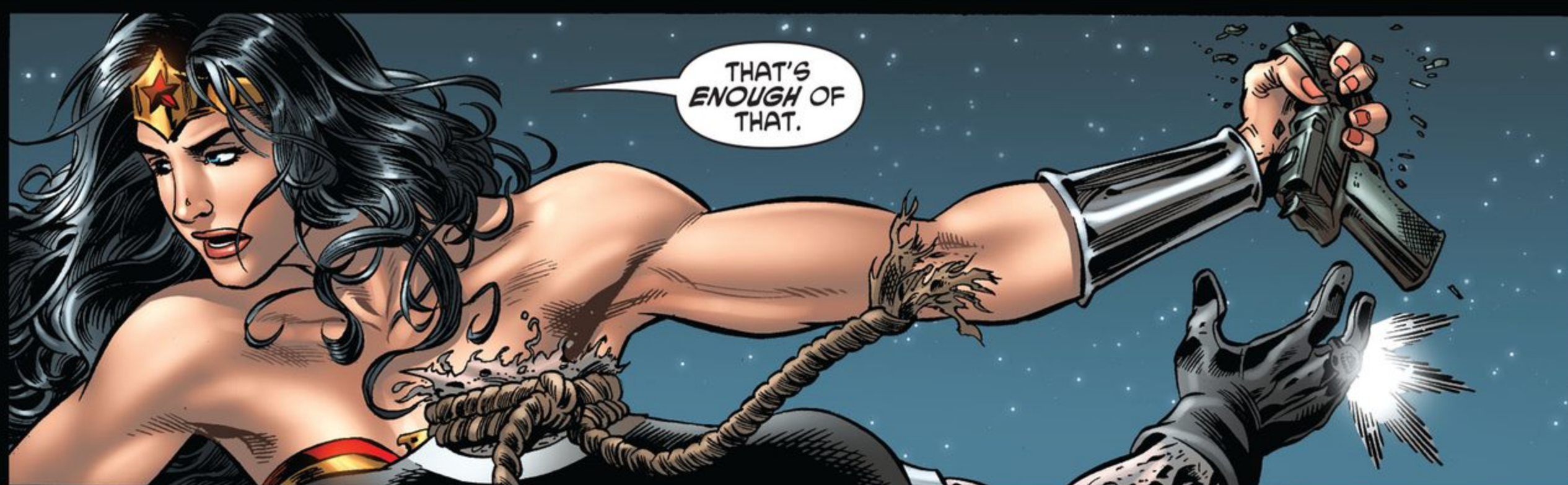
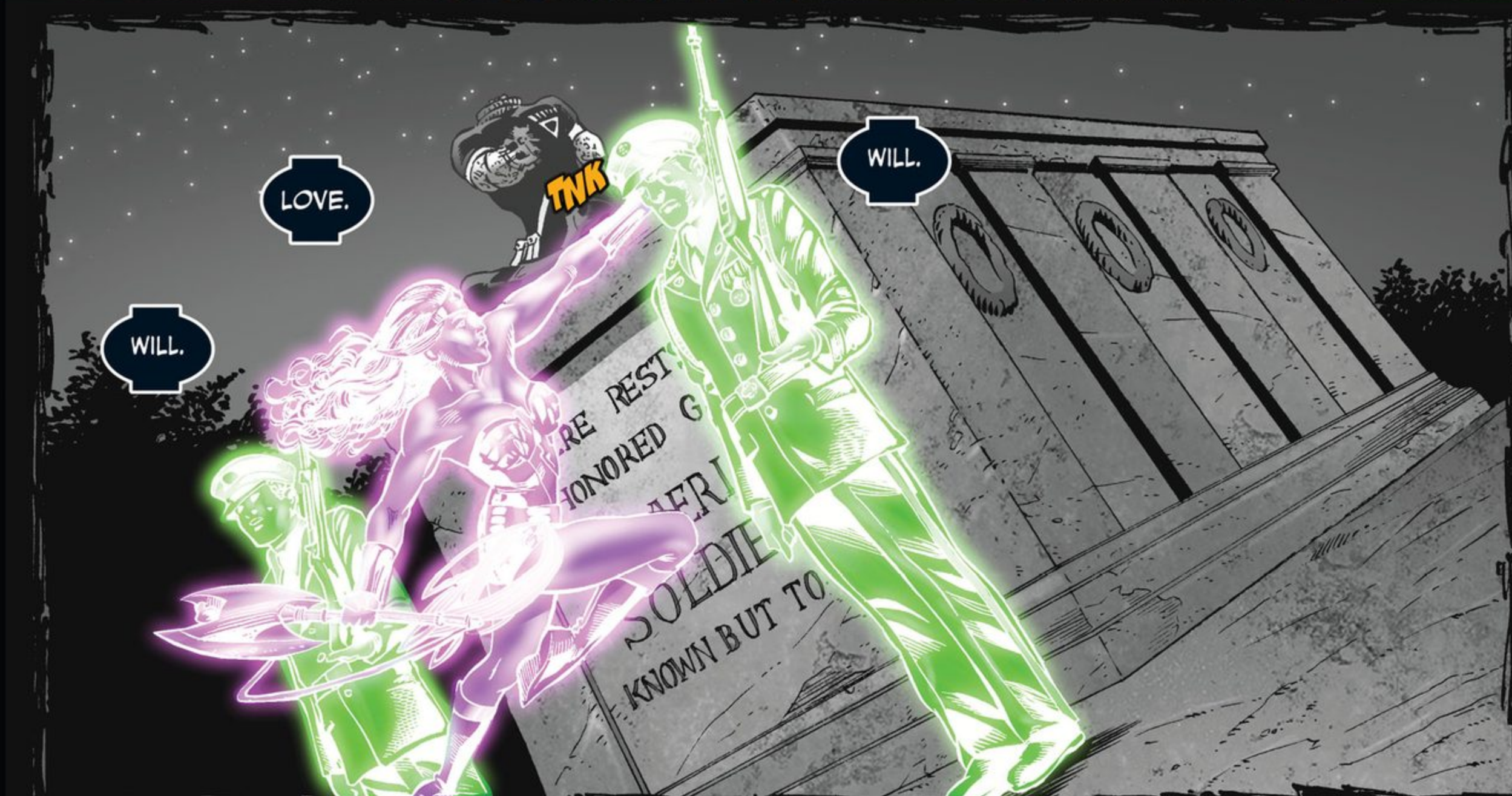


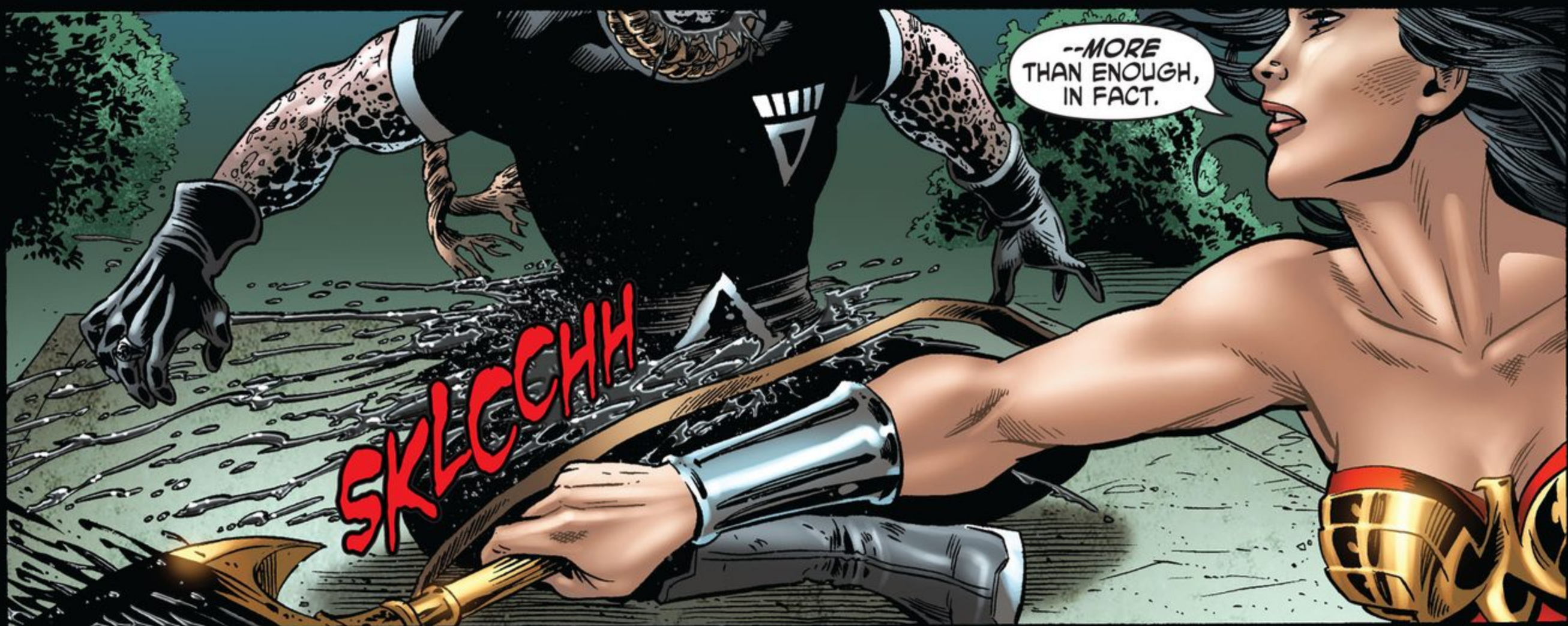
LOVE.

HE NEVER DID
UNDERSTAND ME.









YOU WILL **RELEASE** THESE MEN FROM YOUR **CONTROL** NOW.

OR BY ATHENA'S VERY EYES, I WILL **CARVE** YOU INTO SO MUCH **STEW MEAT**.

AMAZING. YOU **REALLY** MEAN THAT...



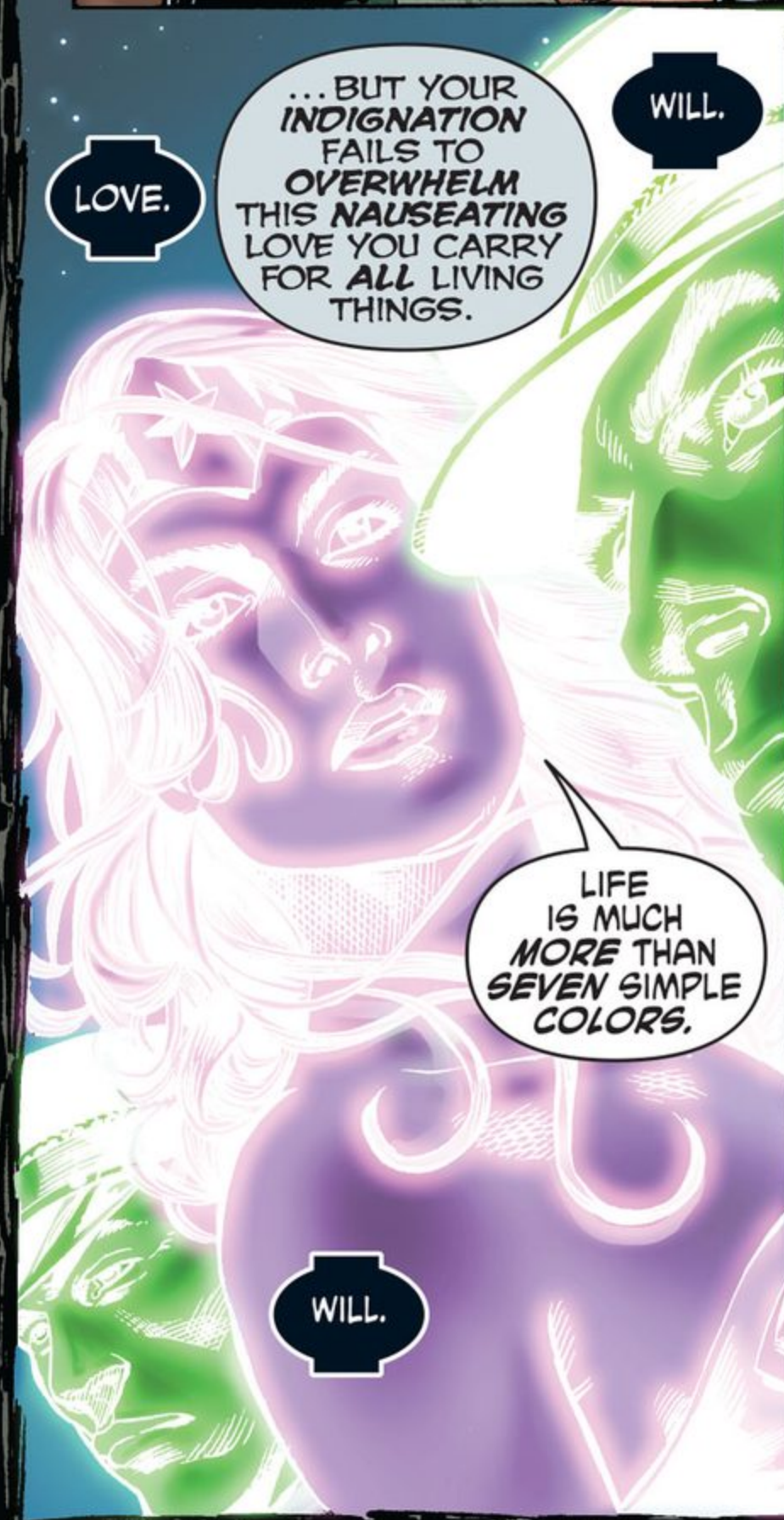
LOVE.

... BUT YOUR **INDIGNATION** FAILS TO **OVERWHELM** THIS **NAUSEATING** LOVE YOU CARRY FOR **ALL** LIVING THINGS.

WILL.

LIFE IS MUCH **MORE** THAN **SEVEN** SIMPLE **COLORS**.

WILL.



FINE...



... HAVE THEM...

NHNN...

UHNN...









YOUR SKIN'S SO SOFT! DO YOU LOOFAP

THIS IS POINTLESS, PRINCESS...

... YOU CAN'T OUTRUN DEATH!

NHNN!

UNFF!

MAX...
... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?



NO ANGER?
NO FEAR?

TOO MUCH
RESPECT FOR
THE HONORED
DEAD TO FIGHT
THEM?



THESE
ARE
SOLDIERS,
THEY GAVE
THEIR
LIVES--



--FOR NOTHING,
FOR EMPTY GAINS
AND HOLLOW
VICTORIES!

PAWNS
IN LIFE AND
PAWNS IN
DEATH!



...I'LL
TAKE ALL
THE LOVE
YOU'VE
GOT TO
GIVE!

MAX,
YOU FOOL--



YOU
WON'T FIGHT
THEM...
... YOU
DON'T FEAR
THEM...



... THAT'S
FINE WITH ME,
BABY...

LOVE.



--LOVE
CAN'T BE
TAKEN--



--ONLY
GIVEN--

KRAK



THE HONOR
GUARD--





IT'S THEIR RINGS,
WE NEED *LIGHT*
TO *DESTROY*
THEM...

...LIGHT...

WONDER
WOMAN? IT'S
FLASH--



--WE NEED ALL
ABLE BODIES IN
COAST CITY RIGHT
AWAY.

UNDERSTOOD.
I'LL BE THERE AS
SOON AS I CAN.

INCOMING!



BUT YOU
CAN'T LEAVE,
PRINCESS! WE'VE
HARDLY HAD A
CHANCE TO
CATCH UP!

AT
LEAST STAY
UNTIL AFTER
DARK!



I'M NOT
AFRAID OF
THE *DARK.*

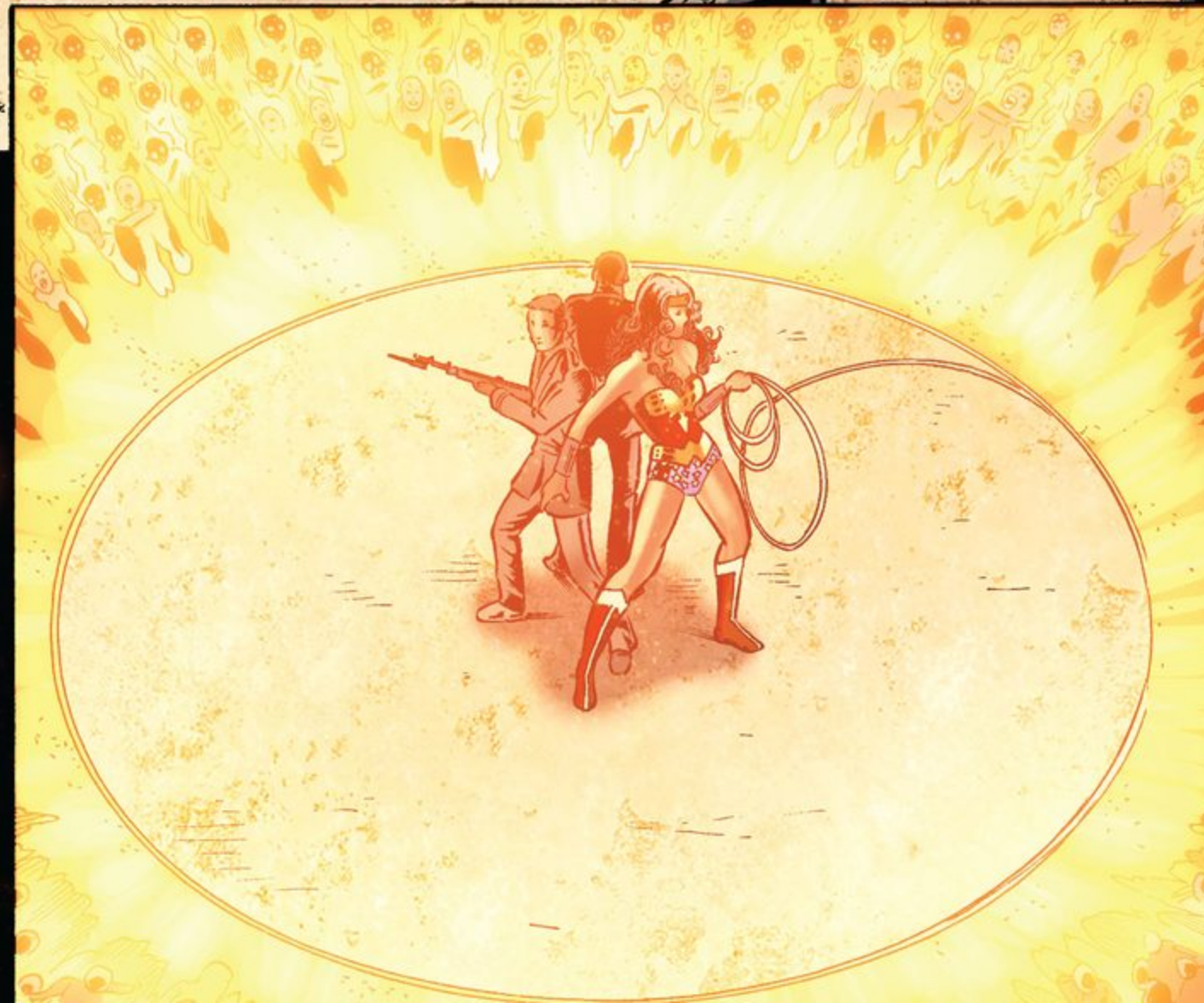


WE'LL
FIX THAT.
WE'LL PUT
OUT ALL THE
LIGHTS.

AND THEN
THERE'LL BE
NOTHING AT
ALL FOR YOU
TO *LOVE.*



MAX,
YOU *STILL* DON'T
UNDERSTAND...





I MUST GO.
YOU DO YOUR OFFICE HONOR, GENTLEMEN.
...BE WELL...



...BE SAFE.

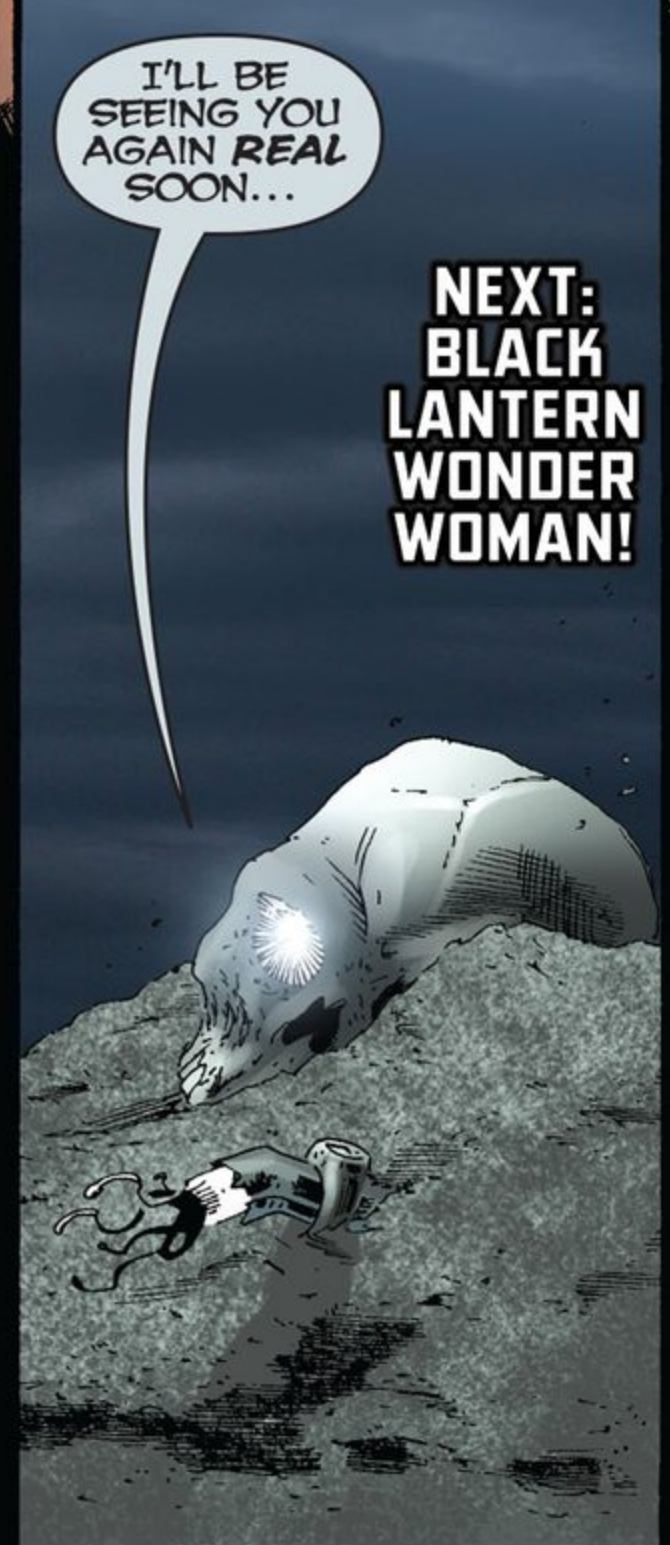


LOVE.

WILL.



GO.



I'LL BE SEEING YOU AGAIN REAL SOON...

**NEXT:
BLACK
LANTERN
WONDER
WOMAN!**



BLACKEST NIGHT

2
OF 3
MAR '10

Wonder Woman

GREG
RUCKA
NICOLA
SCOTT
JONATHAN
GLAPION

VS.
MERA

DCCOMICS.COM



DC
TM

BLACKEST NIGHT
TM

2
OF 3
MAR '10

Wonder Woman
®

GREG
RUCKA
NICOLA
SCOTT
JONATHAN
GLAPION

DCCOMICS.COM

SOOK

IF
I WERE
YOU...

...I'D BE
PRETTY
PISSED OFF
RIGHT ABOUT
NOW.

SCRIPT: GREG RUCKA PENCILS: NICOLA SCOTT & EDUARDO PANSICA
INKS: JONATHAN GLAPION & EBER FERREIRA COLOR: NEI RUFFINO
LETTERS: TRAVIS LANHAM ASSOC. EDITOR: ADAM SCHLAGMAN EDITOR: EDDIE BERGANZA
WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

S TOP THIS--

FLESH.

--STOP MYSELF--

YOU ARE NOT DIANA--

COME, MERA...
... LET'S HAVE A LITTLE HEART-TO-HEART--

--DON'T NO--
RAGE.

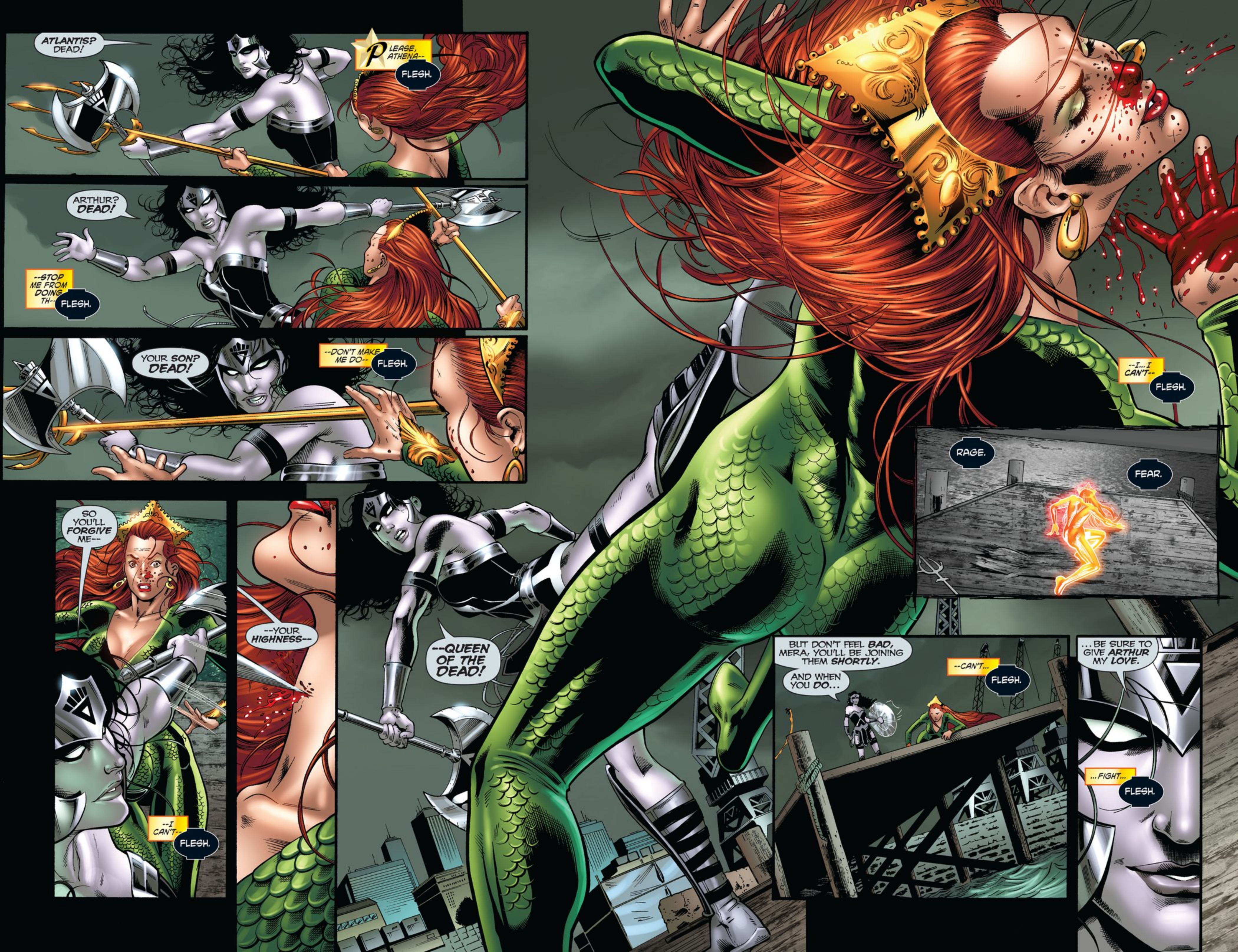
--AND NO QUEEN TAKES ORDERS FROM A PRINCESS!

A QUEEN? QUEEN OF WHAT?

--MERA--
FLESH.

EVERYTHING, EVERYONE YOU LOVED IS DEAD!

--MY FRIEND--
FLESH.



ATLANTIS? DEAD!

PLEASE, ATHENA...
FLESH.

ARTHUR? DEAD!

--STOP ME FROM DOING THIS--
FLESH.

YOUR SON? DEAD!

--DON'T MAKE ME DO--
FLESH.

--I...I CAN'T--
FLESH.

SO YOU'LL FORGIVE ME--

--YOUR HIGHNESS--

--QUEEN OF THE DEAD!

--I CAN'T--
FLESH.

RAGE.

FEAR.

BUT DON'T FEEL BAD, MERA, YOU'LL BE JOINING THEM SHORTLY.

AND WHEN YOU DO...

--CAN'T...
FLESH.

...BE SURE TO GIVE ARTHUR MY LOVE.

...FIGHT...
FLESH.



NHH!

SHUT UP--!



YES, YES, MERA--

NO NO--

--PRINCESS!



--THAT'S IT, YOU CAN DO IT--

--NO NO NO NO--

I WILL NOT LIE DOWN AND DIE!



--WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO--

NOOOO FLESH FLESH--

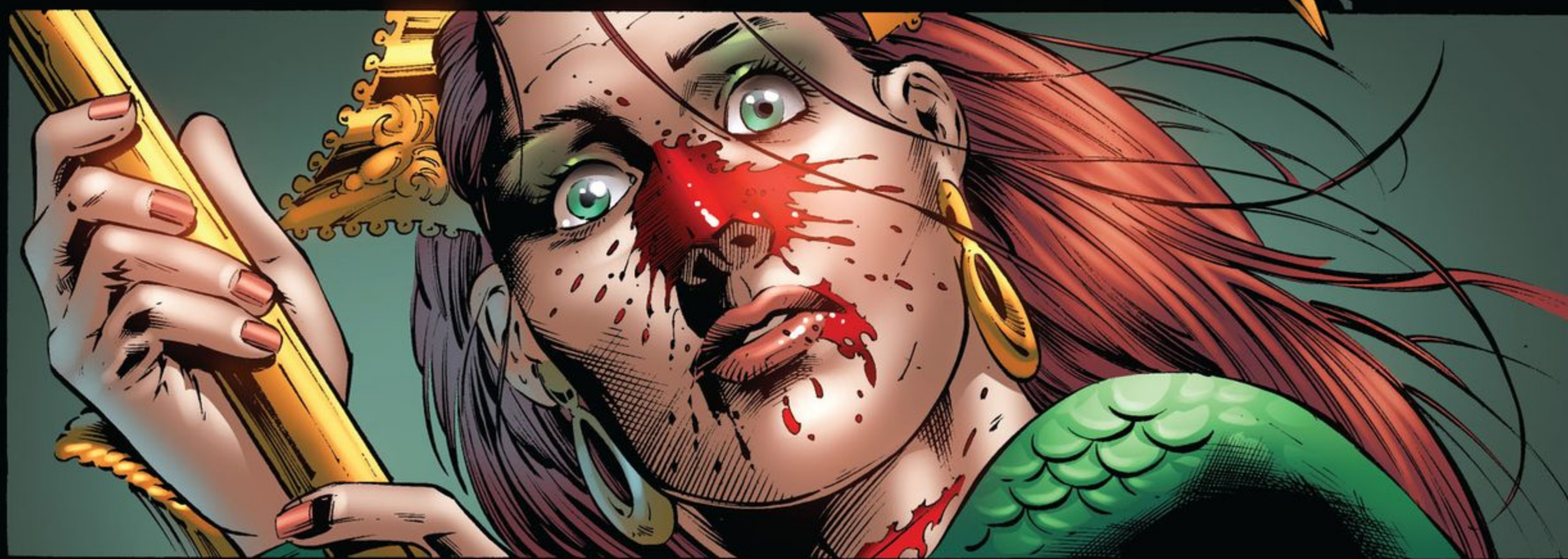
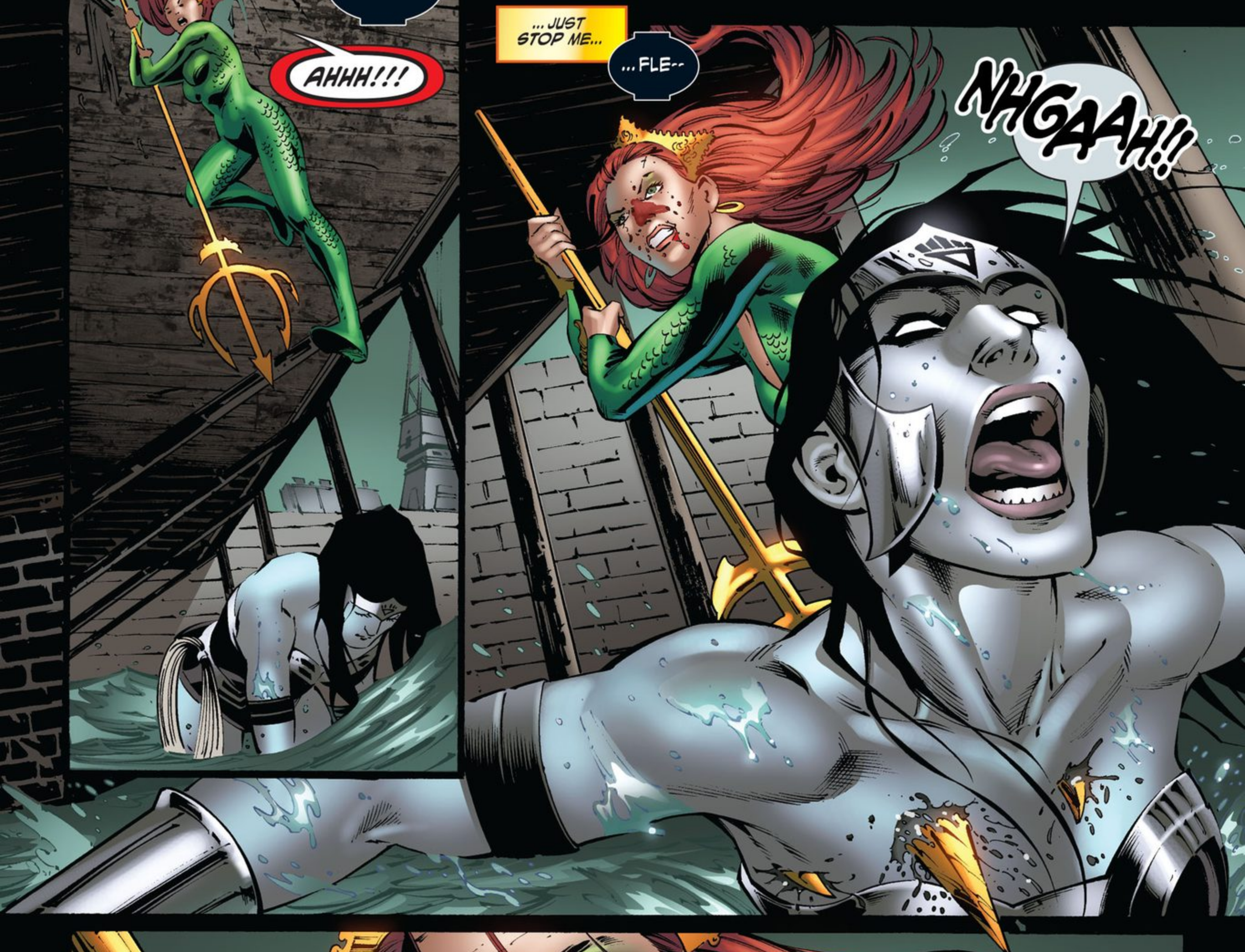
NOT FOR YOU--



--TRAP ME...

--FLESH...

--NOT FOR ANYONE!





NO, GODS,
PLEASE--

FLESH.

--HAAARR!!



--STOP--

FLESH.

YOU
KNOW WHAT
I'M **HUNGRY**
FOR RIGHT
NOW?



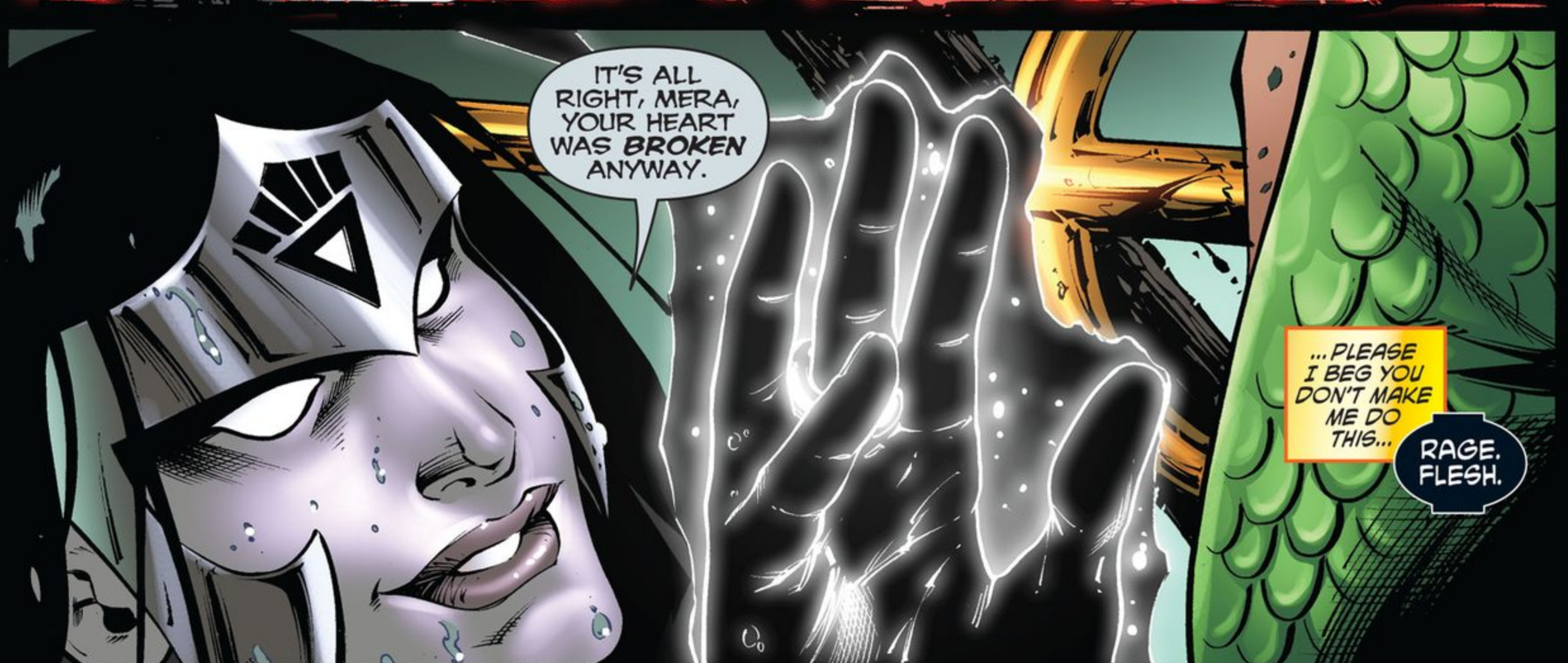
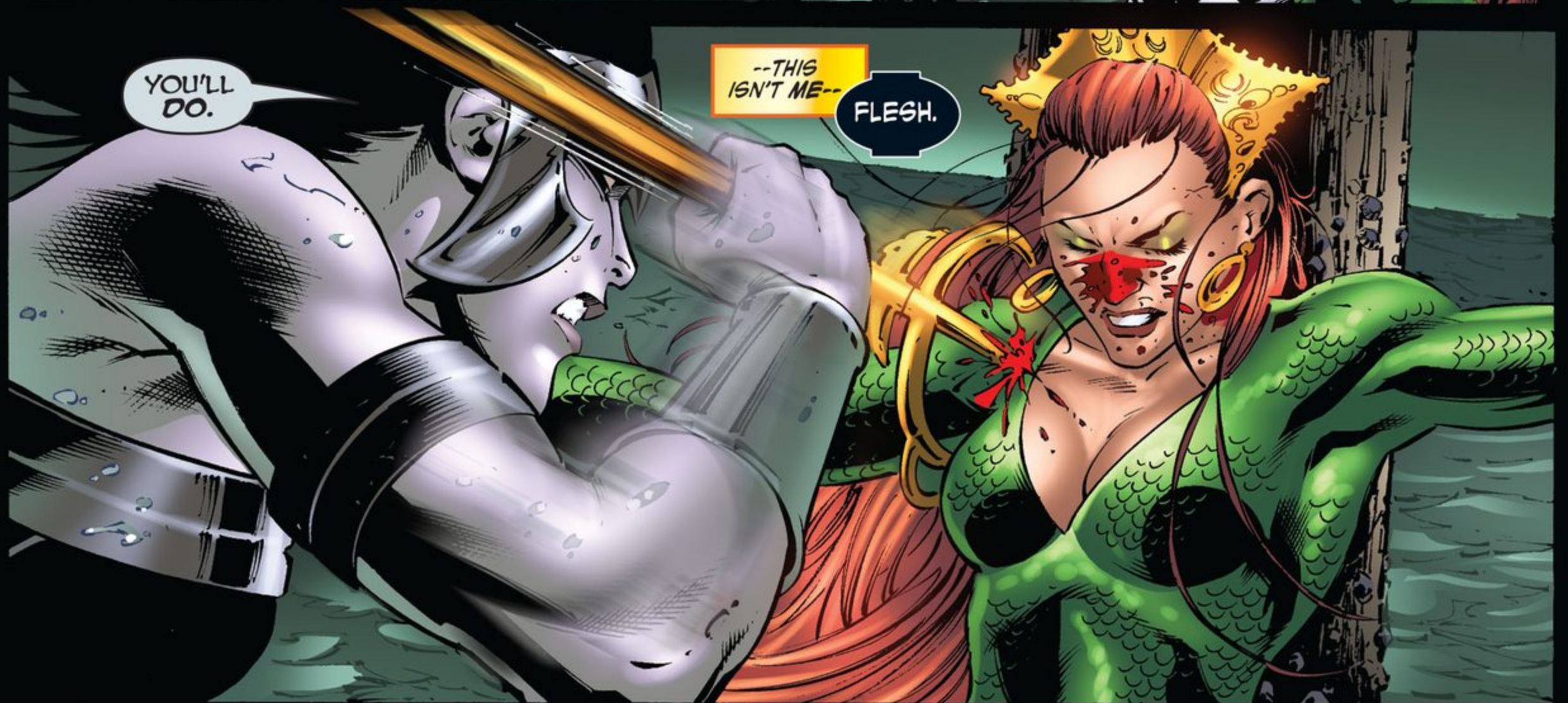
--STOP
ME--

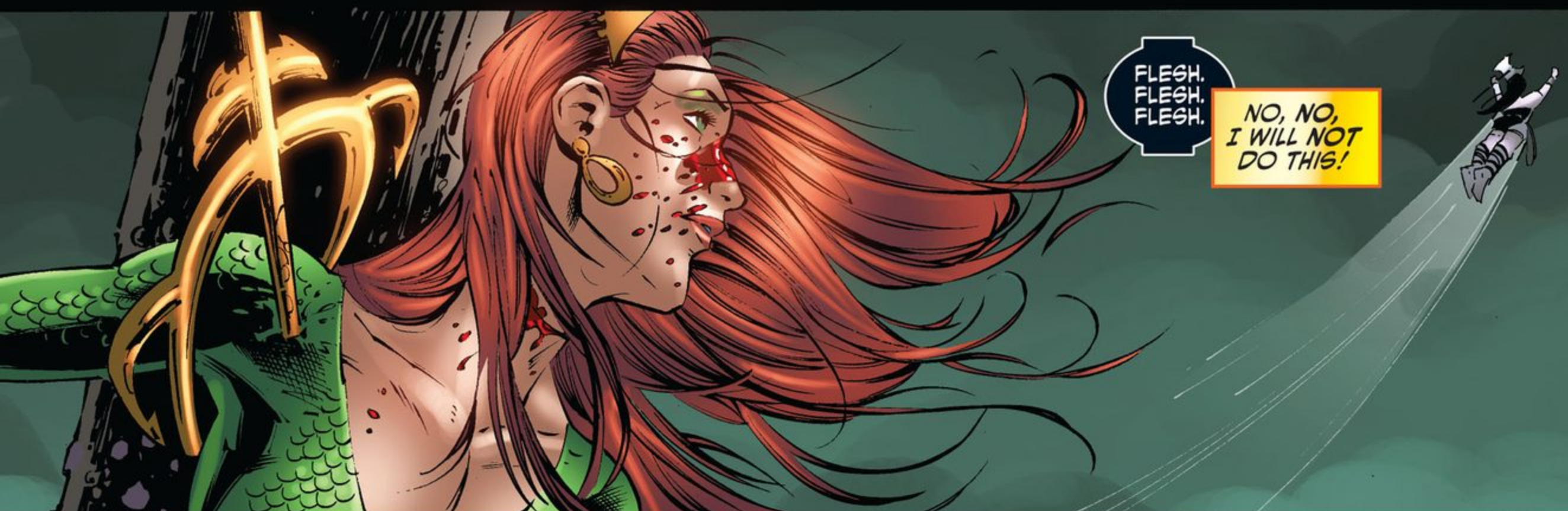
FLESH.



--PLEASE--

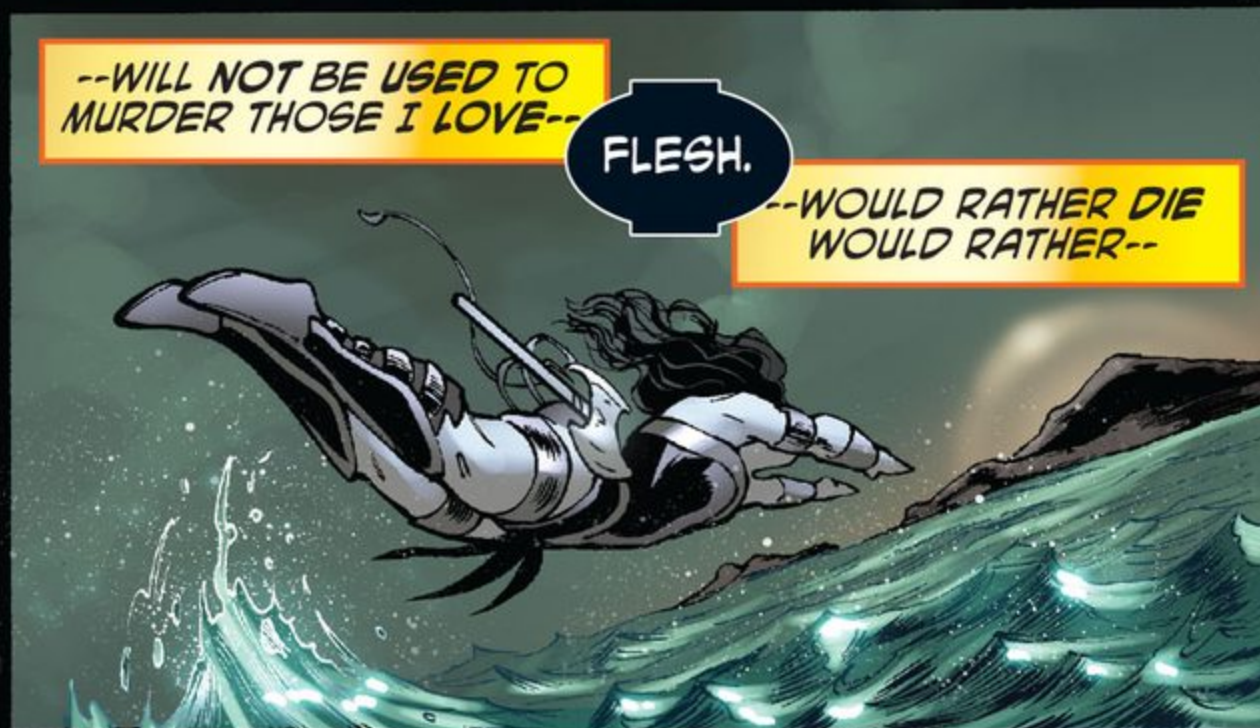
FLESH.







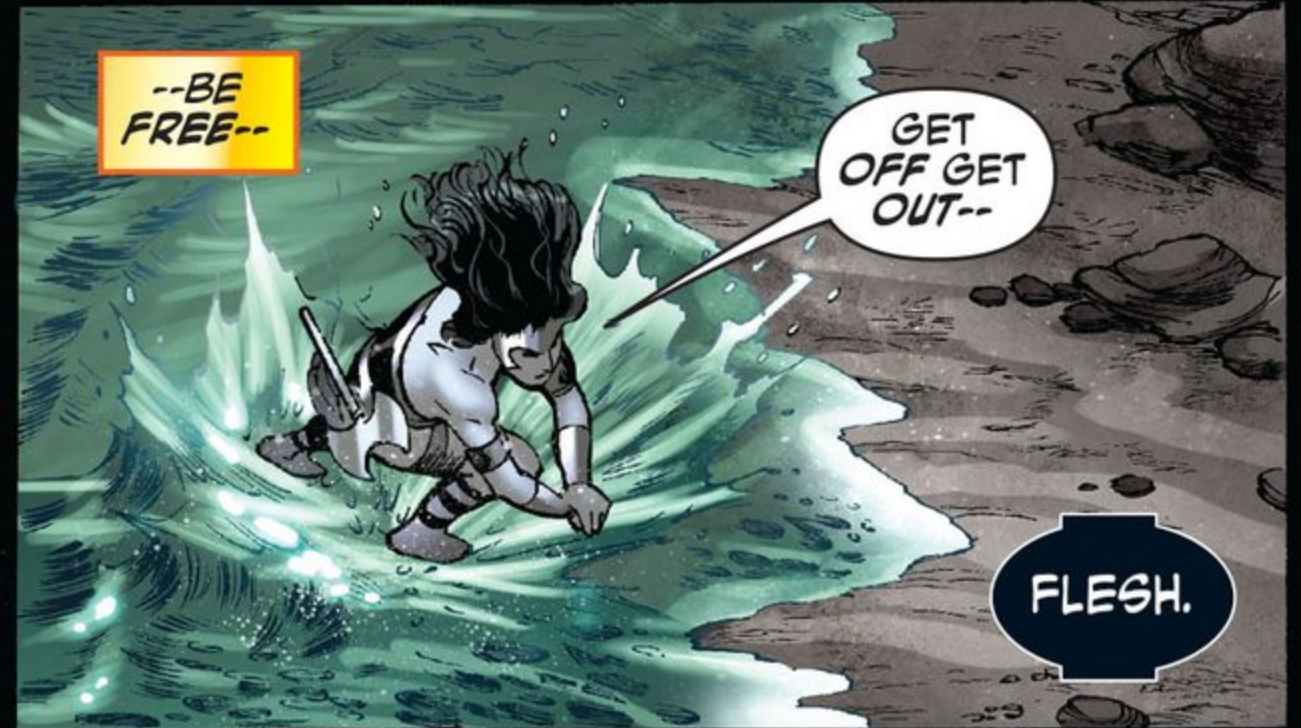
9 WILL NOT
BE A
SLAVE--



--WILL NOT BE USED TO
MURDER THOSE I LOVE--

FLESH.

--WOULD RATHER DIE
WOULD RATHER--



--BE
FREE--

GET
OFF GET
OUT--

FLESH.



--OF MY MIND
OUT OF MY
BODY I'M
NOT--

FLESH.

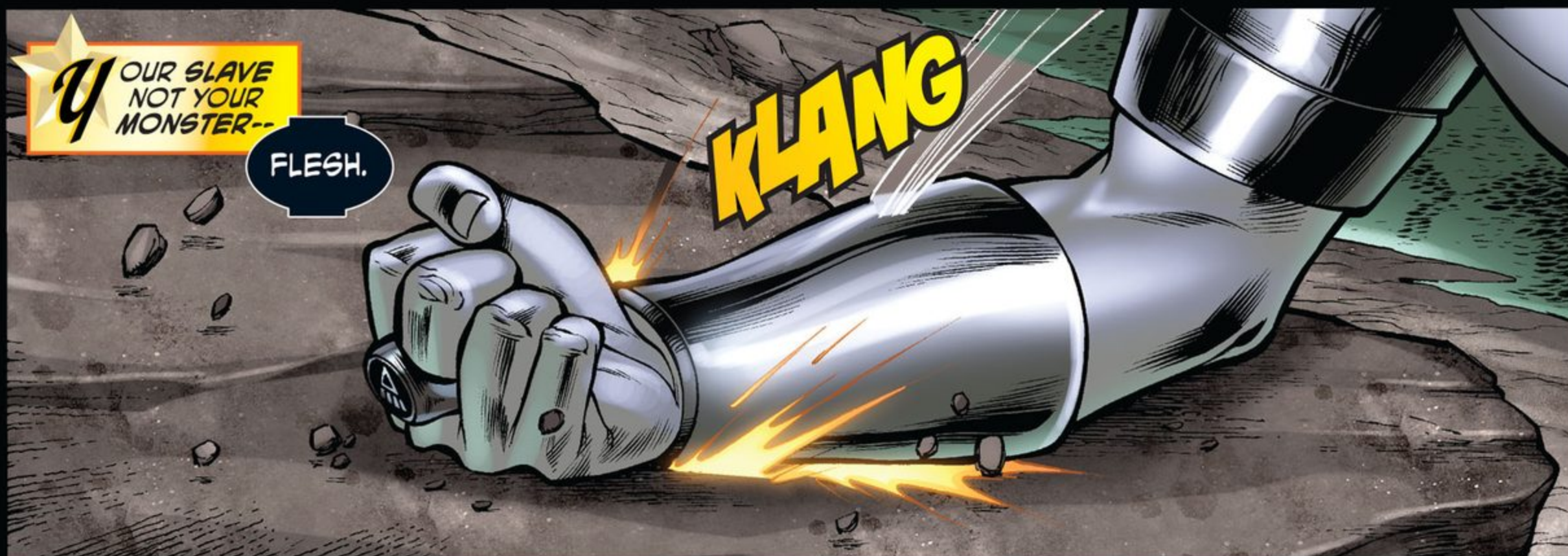


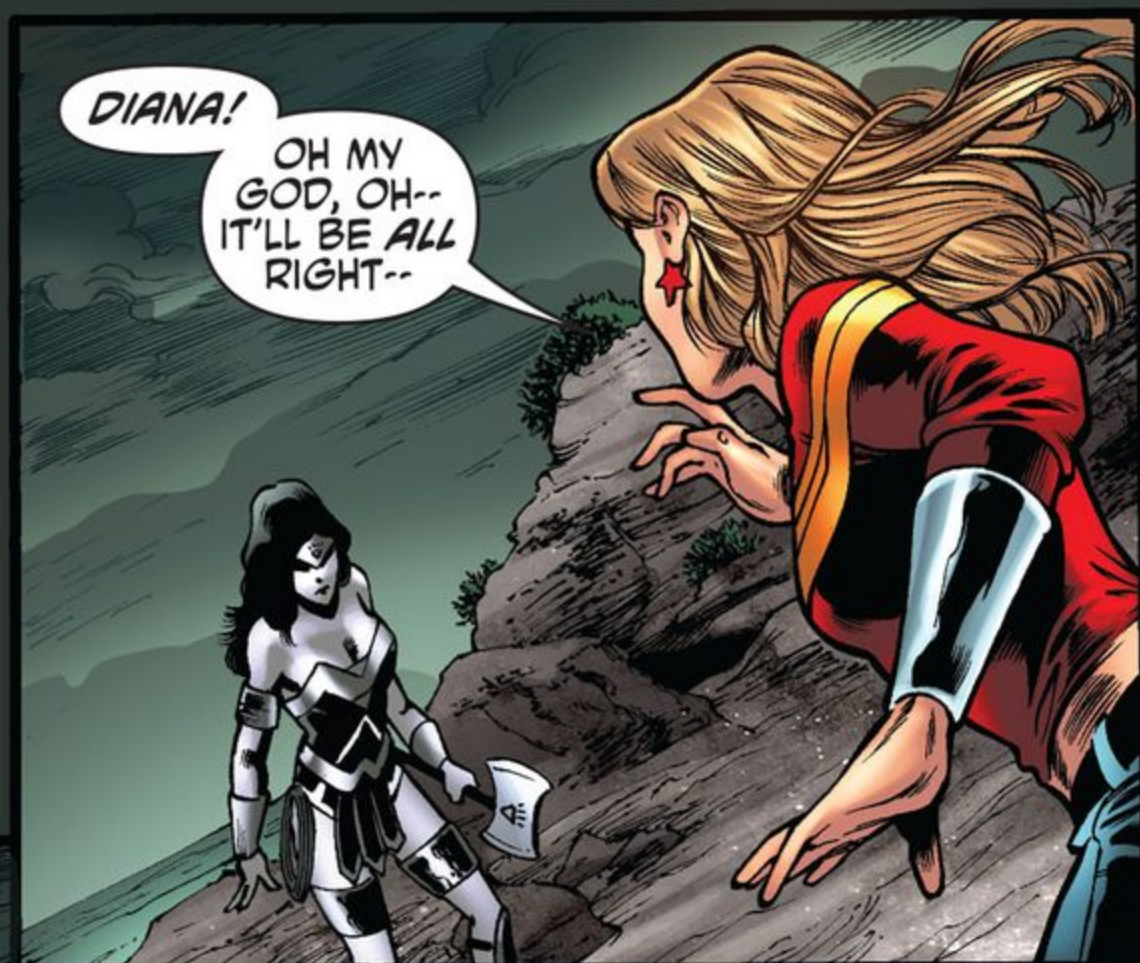
NYAAA!!



FLESH.

NO NEVER
NO NOT
YOURS NOT--





DIANA!

OH MY GOD, OH-- IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT--



--IT'S OKAY, I'LL HELP YOU, IT'S GONNA BE OKAY--

THAT'S JUST ANOTHER THING I HATE ABOUT YOU, BLONDIE...



... YOU'RE NOT JUST A LIAR, YOU'RE A STUPID LIAR.

DONNA--

SOON TO BE A DEAD STUPID LIAR.

I NEVER LIKED YOU, CASSIE. ALL THESE YEARS PRETENDING TO BE SISTERS, YOU, ME, AND DIANA...



... AND YOU NEVER FIGURED IT OUT? C'MON, ONE OF THESE THINGS IS NOT LIKE THE OTHERS...

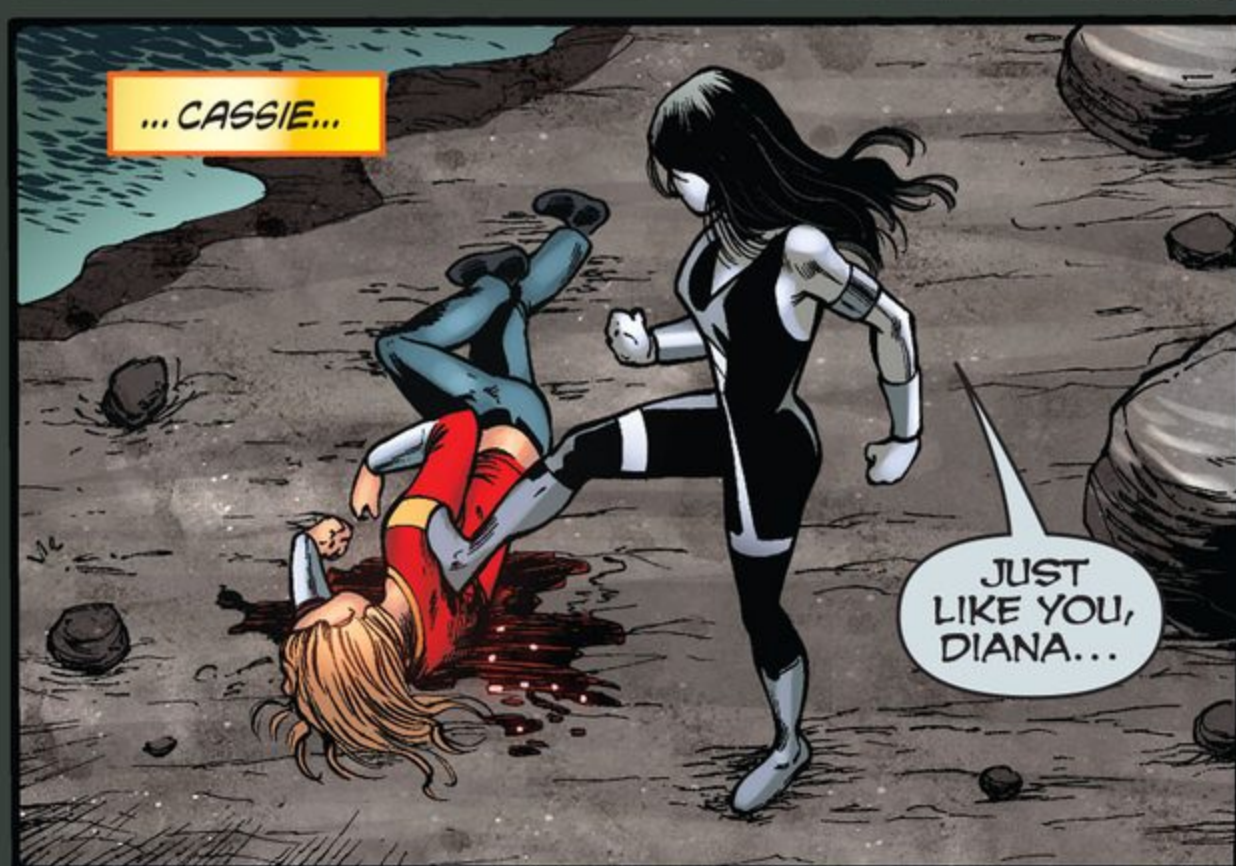
... MEANING YOU...

... I'VE BEEN WAITING TO HEAR YOU SCREAM FOR YEARS--

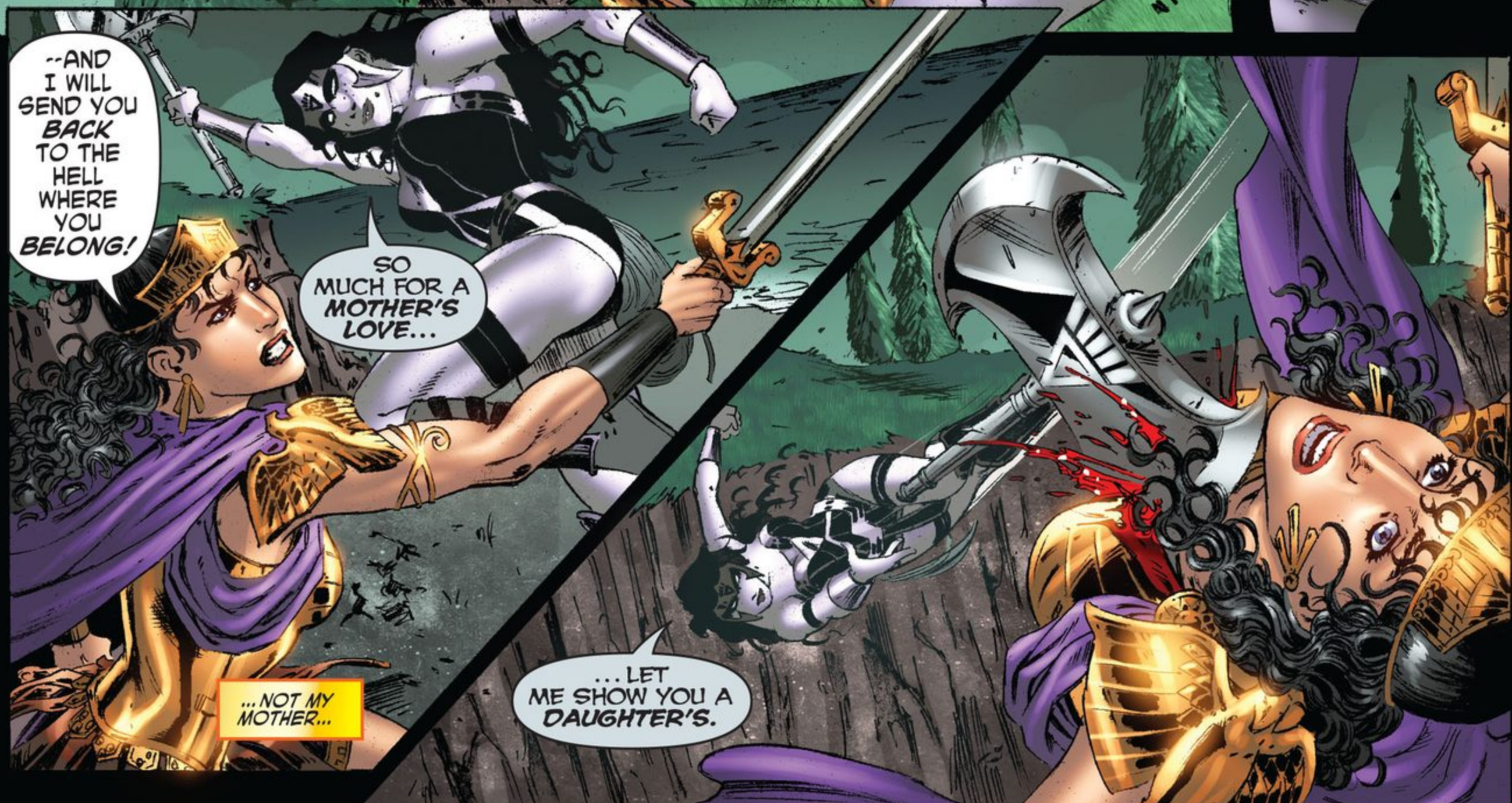
FEAR.



DONNA, PLEASE...









OH, WAIT.
THAT WASN'T
LOVE, WAS
IT?

...D... DIANA...

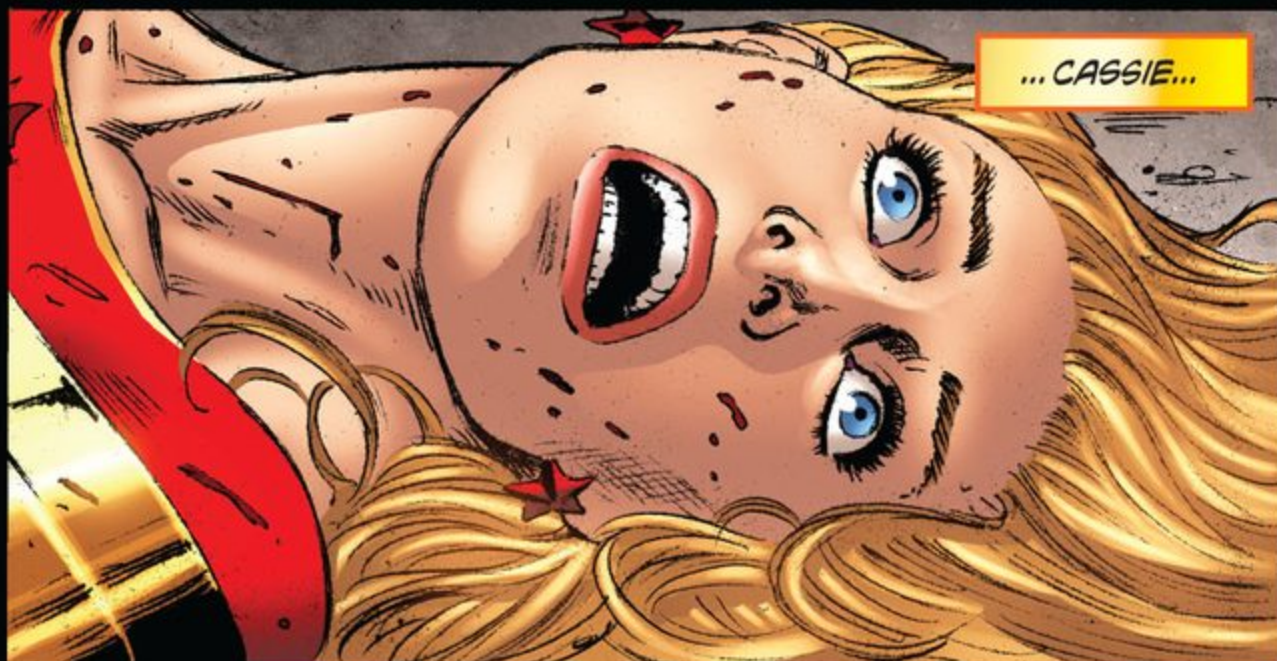


THAT WAS
HATE.

THIS
THING...

FLESH.

...IS
DESTROYING
ME...



...CASSIE...



...DONNA...



...D-DAUGHTER,
P-PLEASE...

NO,
DON'T
SPEAK,
MOM...

...BOTH
DEAD
BY MY
HAND...



...NOW MY
MOTHER...

...YOU'LL
RUIN THE
MOMENT.

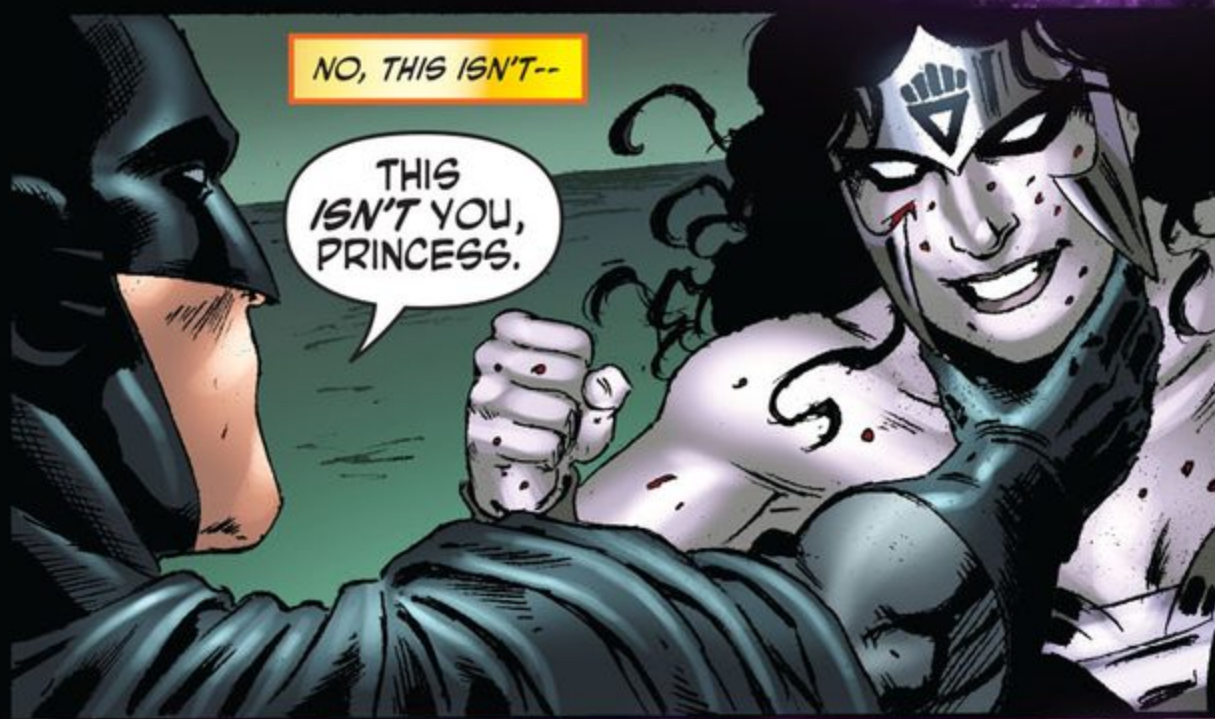
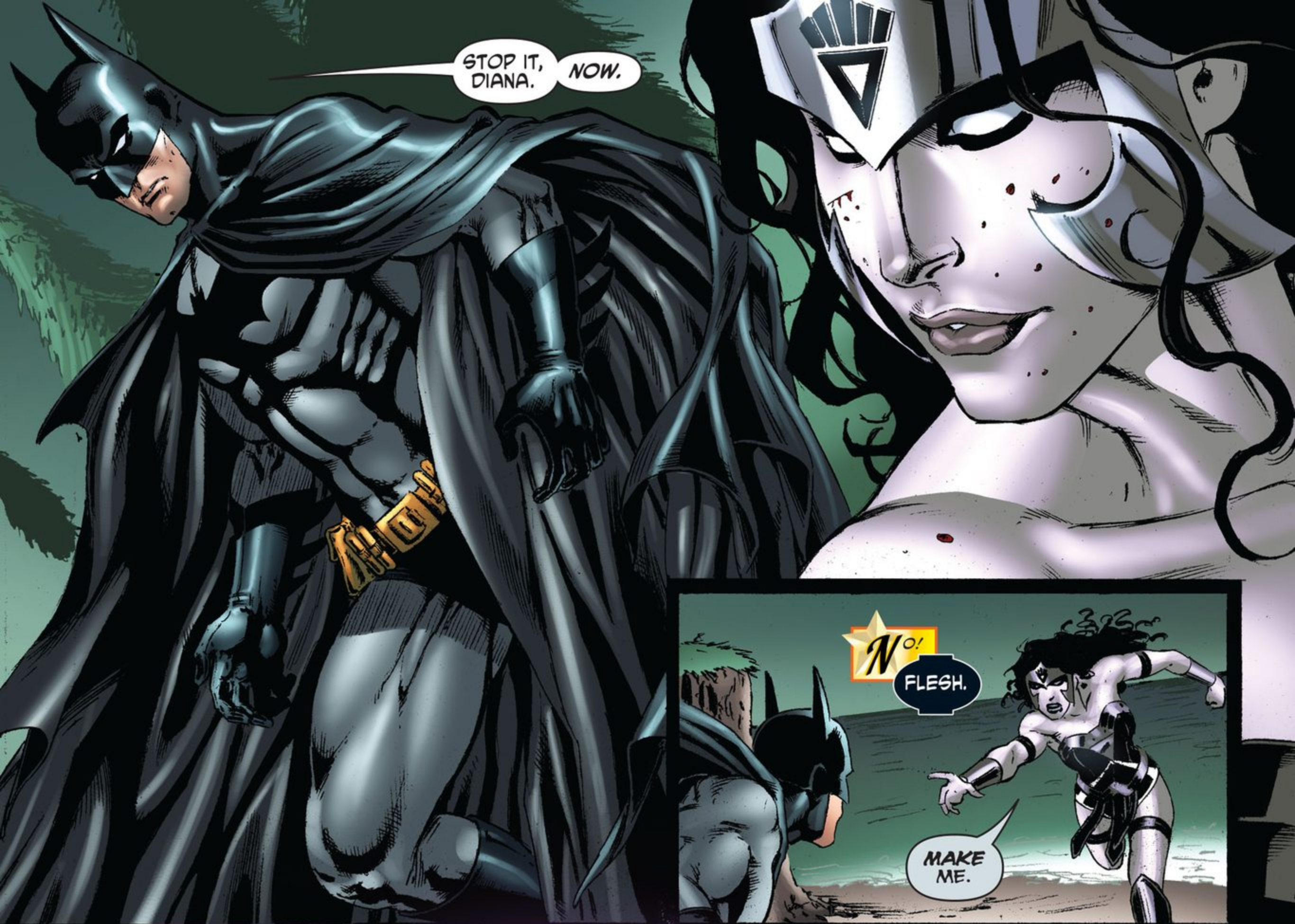
...ALL I
LOVE...



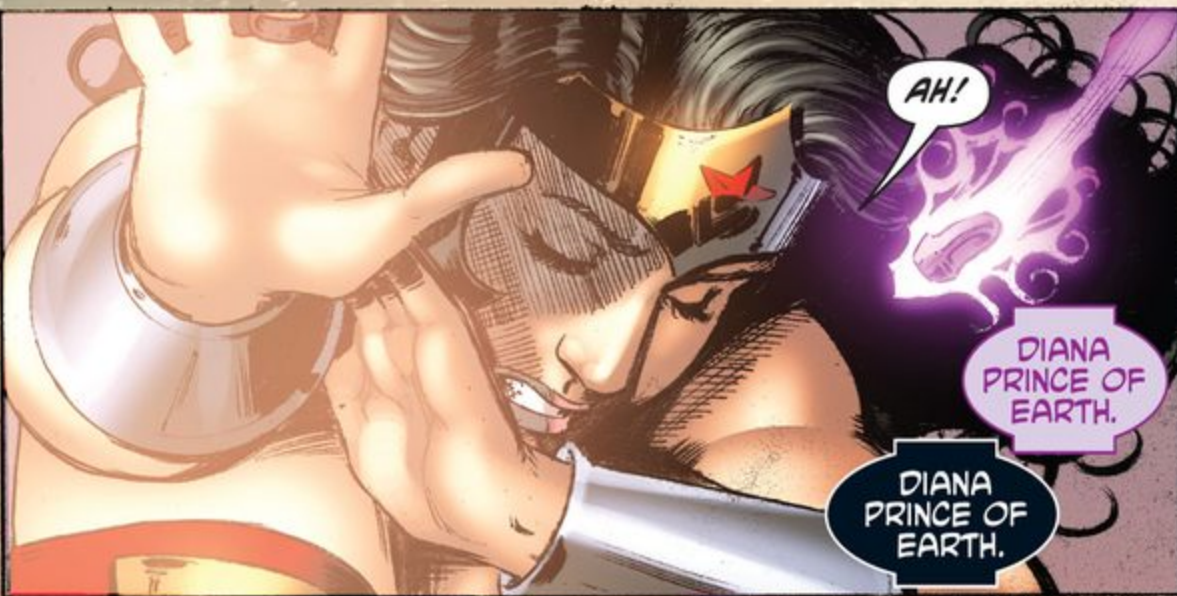
...THERE IS
NOTHING
LEFT...

HMM?

...ONLY
HATE--







AH!

DIANA PRINCE OF EARTH.

DIANA PRINCE OF EARTH.



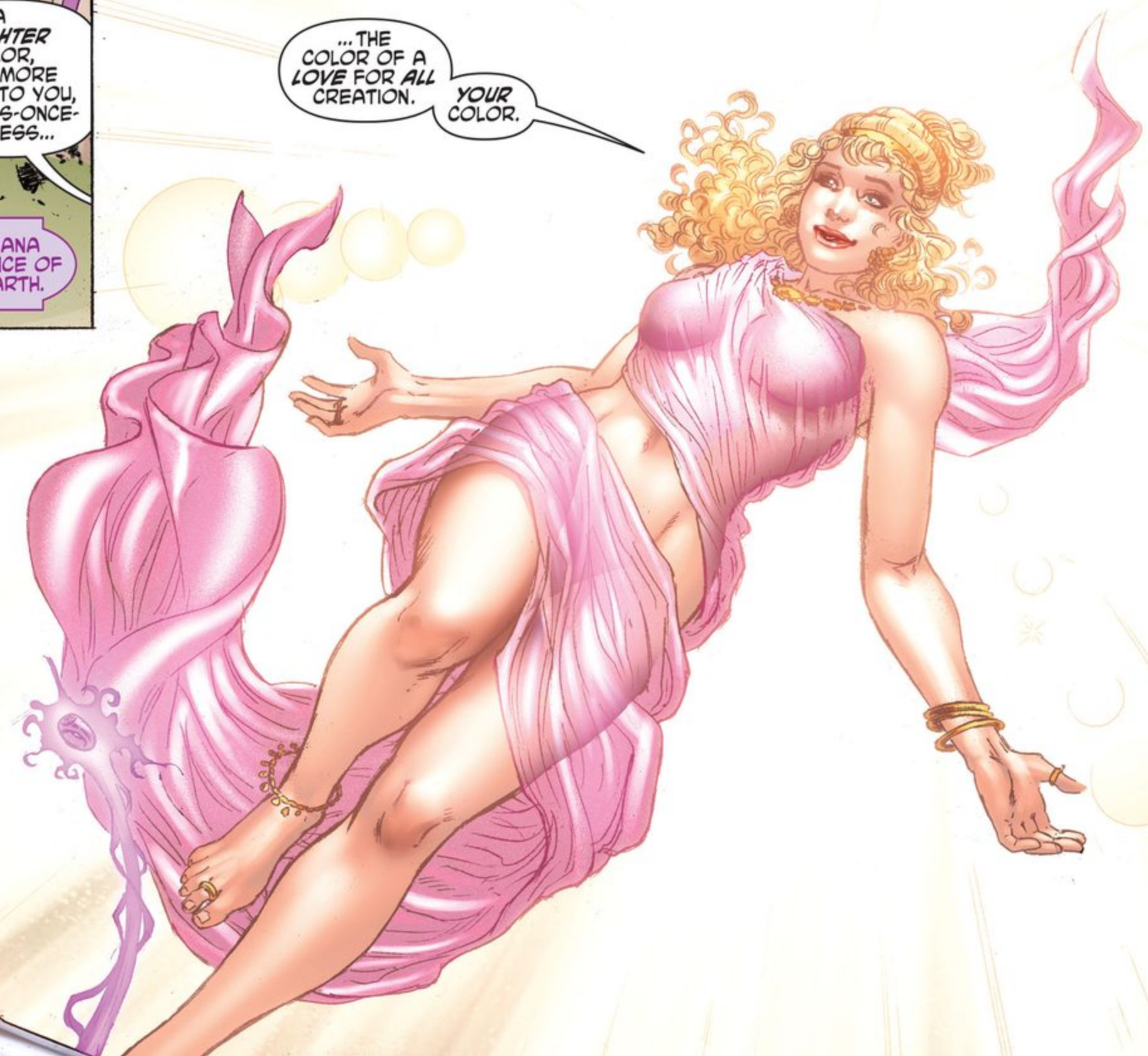
WHAT...

...A VIOLET RING...?

A BRIGHTER COLOR, MUCH MORE SUITED TO YOU, PRINCESS-ONCE-GODDESS...

DIANA PRINCE OF EARTH.

STAY AWAY.



...THE COLOR OF A LOVE FOR ALL CREATION.

YOUR COLOR.



APHRODITE... GODDESS...

...TO LOVE I MUST FORGIVE, AND I CANNOT FORGIVE MYSELF FOR WHAT I HAVE DONE.

DIANA PRINCE OF EARTH.



YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING, DIANA.

MY SISTERS, MY MOTHER--

NOTHING.



IN DARKNESS, LOVE MUST SURVIVE.



THEY, LIKE THIS PLACE, ONLY A FIGMENT.

A PLACE I MADE WHERE YOUR POSSESSION COULD RUN FREE AND WITHOUT HARM...



...TO SAVE YOU FROM YOURSELF.

I WOULD NOT SEE YOU DESTROYED BY THIS EVIL, DIANA.

YOU HAVE GREAT LOVE IN YOUR HEART.



CONNECTION SEVERED.



IT MUST DO MORE...

WELCOME TO THE STAR SAPPHIRES.



...IT MUST TRIUMPH.

NEXT: A HINT OF DAYLIGHT



BLACKEST NIGHT

3
OF 3
APR '10

Wonder Woman

GREG
RUCKA
NICOLA
SCOTT
JONATHAN
GLAPION



STAR SAPPHIRE
Wonder Woman

dccomics.com



BLACKEST NIGHT™

3
OF 3
APR '10

Wonder Woman

STAR SAPPHIRE™
Wonder Woman®



GREG
RUCKA
NICOLA
SCOTT
JONATHAN
GLAPION

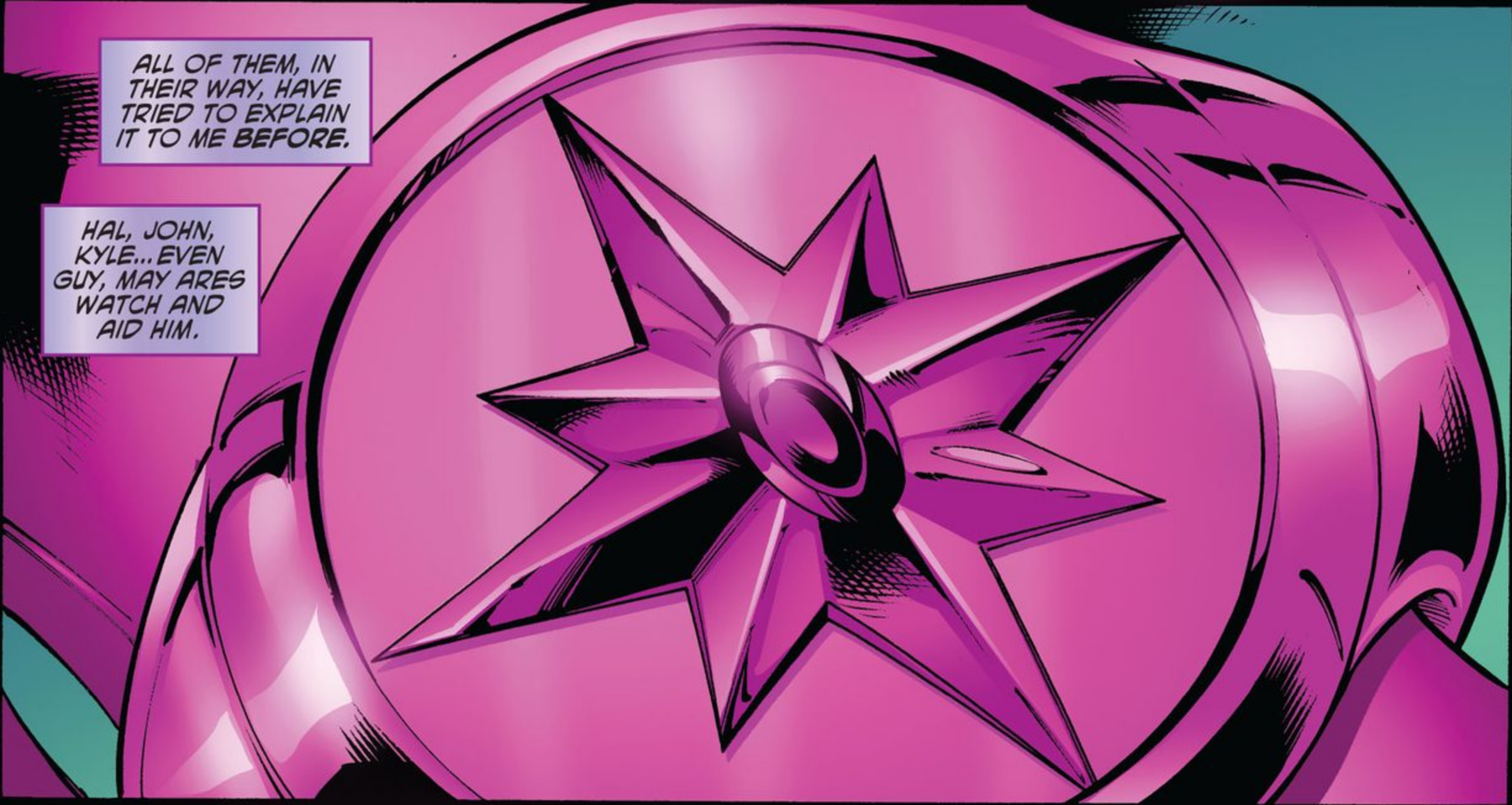
sook

sook

7
DCCOMICS.COM

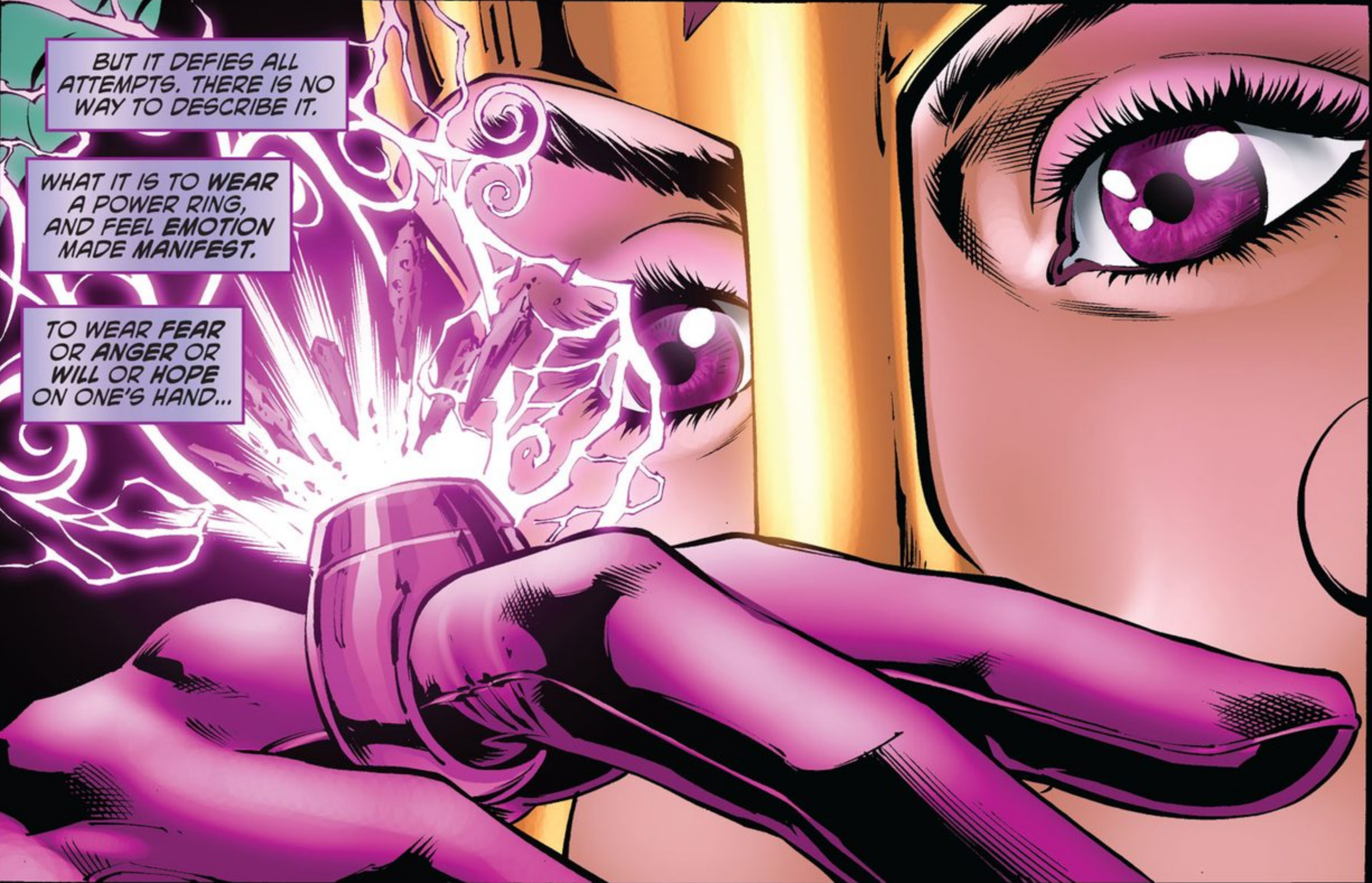


EXTRAORDINARY.



ALL OF THEM, IN
THEIR WAY, HAVE
TRIED TO EXPLAIN
IT TO ME BEFORE.

HAL, JOHN,
KYLE... EVEN
GUY, MAY ARES
WATCH AND
AID HIM.



BUT IT DEFIES ALL
ATTEMPTS. THERE IS NO
WAY TO DESCRIBE IT.

WHAT IT IS TO WEAR
A POWER RING,
AND FEEL EMOTION
MADE MANIFEST.

TO WEAR FEAR
OR ANGER OR
WILL OR HOPE
ON ONE'S HAND...

TO WEAR LOVE.

TOO BEAUTIFUL FOR WORDS...

DIANA!

Wonder Woman BLACKEST NIGHT

WRITER: GREG RUCKA PENCILS: NICOLA SCOTT
INKS: JONATHAN GLAPION COLORS: NEI RUFFINO COVER: GREG HORN
VARIANT COVER: RYAN SOOK LETTERS: TRAVIS LANHAM
ASSOC. EDITOR: ADAM SCHLAGMAN EDITOR: EDDIE BERGANZA
Wonder Woman created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON





THE OTHERS--ATOM, FLASH, THE REST--ALL OF THEM WERE *FREE* WHEN THEIR RINGS FOUND THEM. BUT YOU...

I WAS POSSESSED. I WAS A *BLACK LANTERN*.

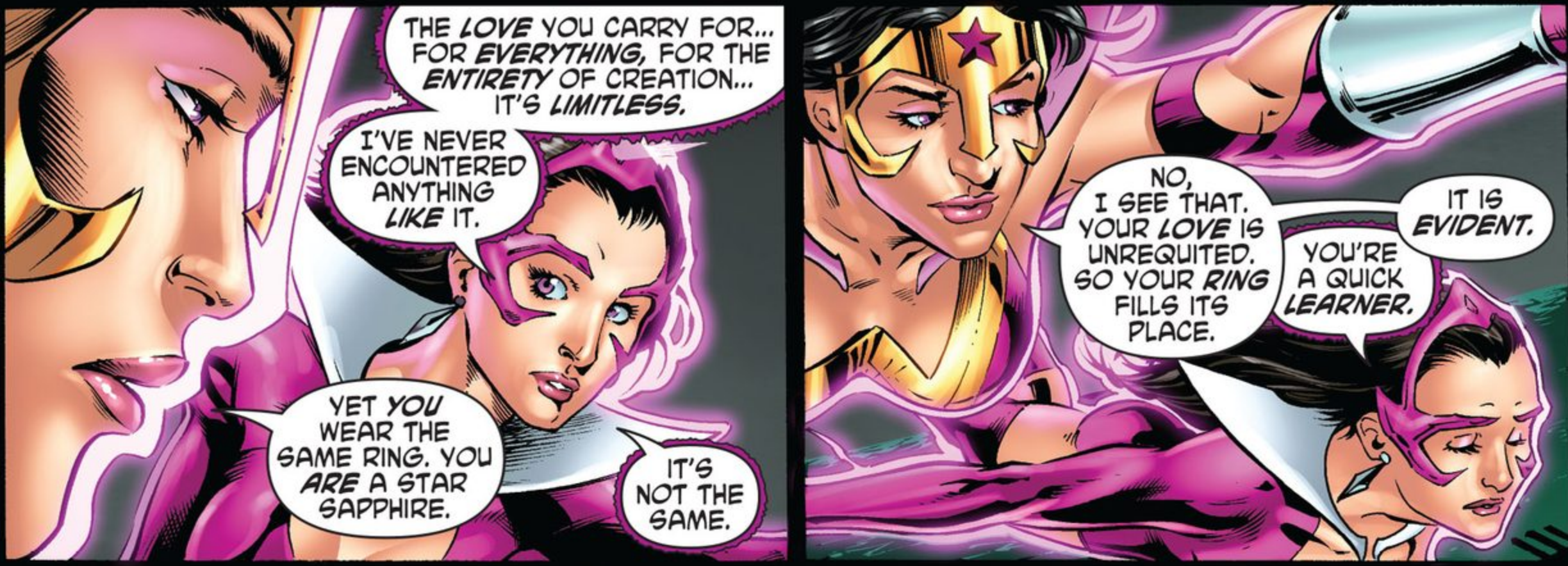
YES. YET *ENOUGH* OF YOU REMAINED THAT THE VIOLET COULD *REACH* YOU, AND THAT YOU COULD DO WHAT NO ONE ELSE COULD DO... AND *REACH BACK*.



THAT'S *NEVER* HAPPENED BEFORE.

BUT WHY ME? WHY NOT SOMEONE ELSE?

THE VIOLET, THE STAR SAPPHIRES, THEIR *COLOR* IS LOVE, DIANA.



THE LOVE YOU CARRY FOR... FOR *EVERYTHING*, FOR THE *ENTIRETY* OF CREATION... IT'S *LIMITLESS*.

I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED ANYTHING LIKE IT.

YET YOU WEAR THE SAME RING. YOU *ARE* A STAR SAPPHIRE.

IT'S NOT THE SAME.

NO, I SEE THAT. YOUR LOVE IS UNREQUITED. SO YOUR *RING* FILLS ITS PLACE.

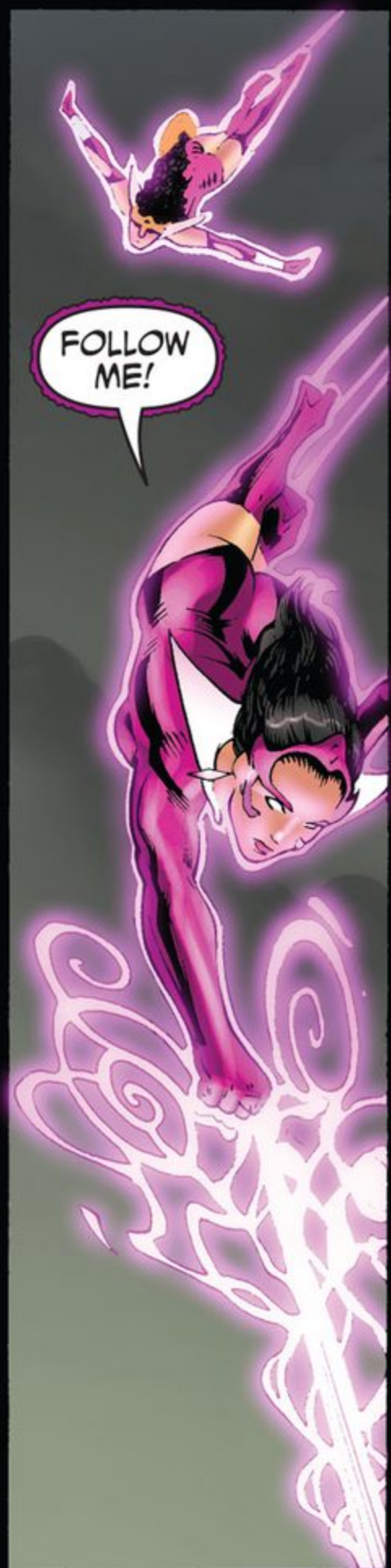
YOU'RE A QUICK LEARNER.

IT IS EVIDENT.



LOVING HIM FROM *AFAR* IS NOT WORTHY OF HIM, OR YOU.

I WON'T ARGUE THE *POINT*. BUT RIGHT NOW...



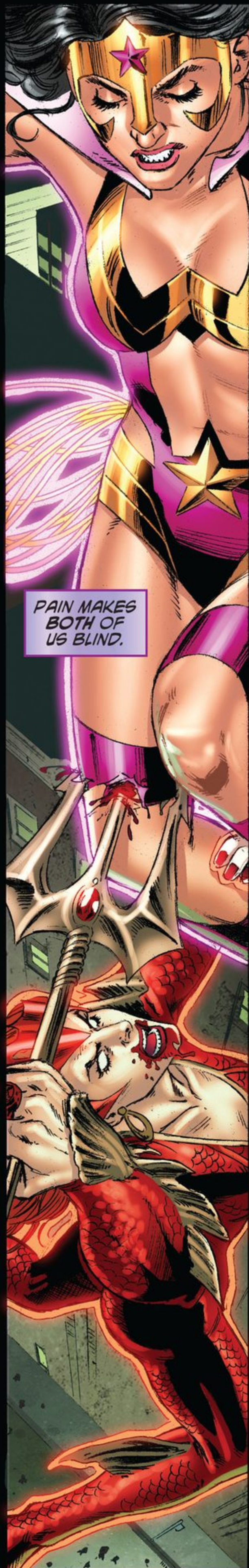








THE RING ON MY
HAND--MY RING--
TRIES TO SEE
HER HEART.



PAIN MAKES
BOTH OF
US BLIND.

MINE IS
PHYSICAL.



HERS
RUNS MUCH
DEEPER.



9 CAN FEEL THE RING SIFTING THROUGH THE RED HAZE...



... SEARCHING MEMORY AND HEARTBREAK...



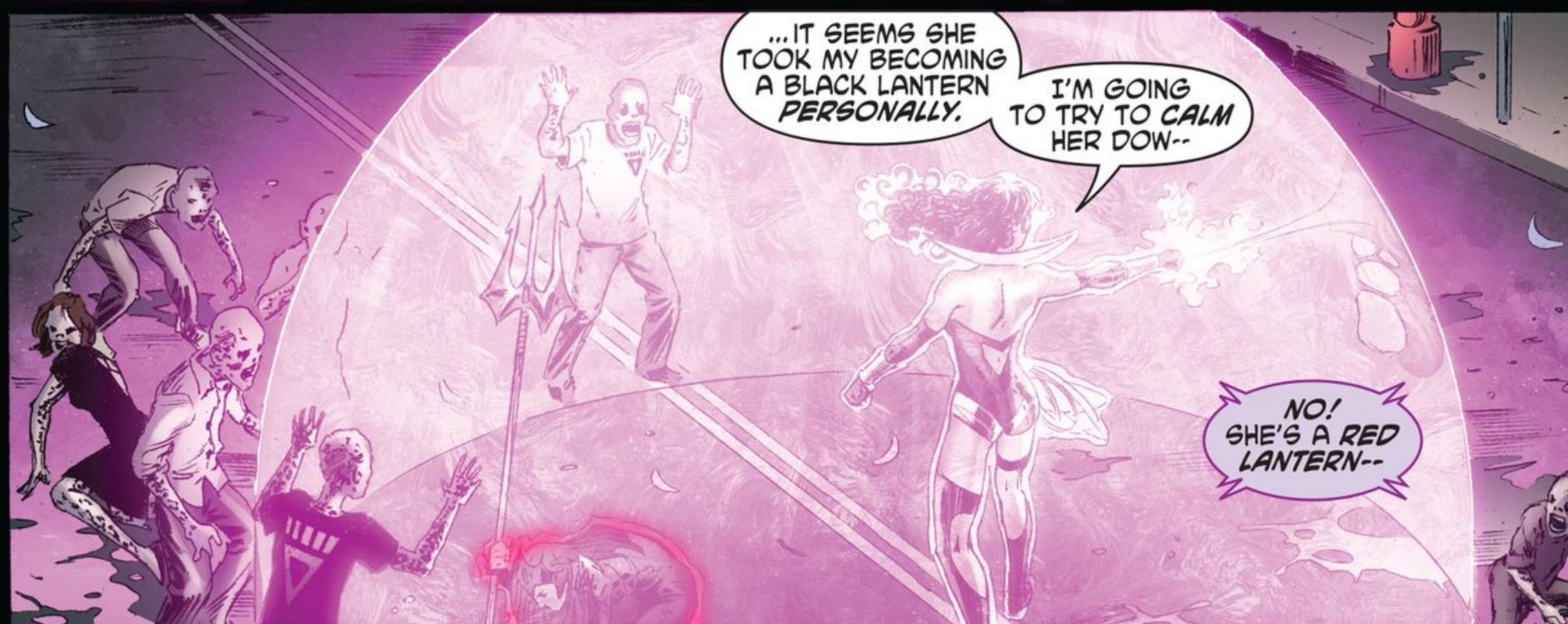
... SEARCHING IN VAIN AS HER RAGE RUNS RAMPANT.



RAGE FED BY INCONCEIVABLE PAIN, HIDDEN BEHIND YEARS OF LIES.



BACK--
OFF!







IT'S NOT
JUST
RAGE...

NERA!

RRR



...IT'S MORE
THAN THAT...

LISTEN,
PLEASE.

I AM
NOT YOUR
ENEMY.



...IT'S A
KIND OF
HATRED...

GAARAAA!



... AND IT
RUNS DEEP.

I AM YOUR
FRIEND...

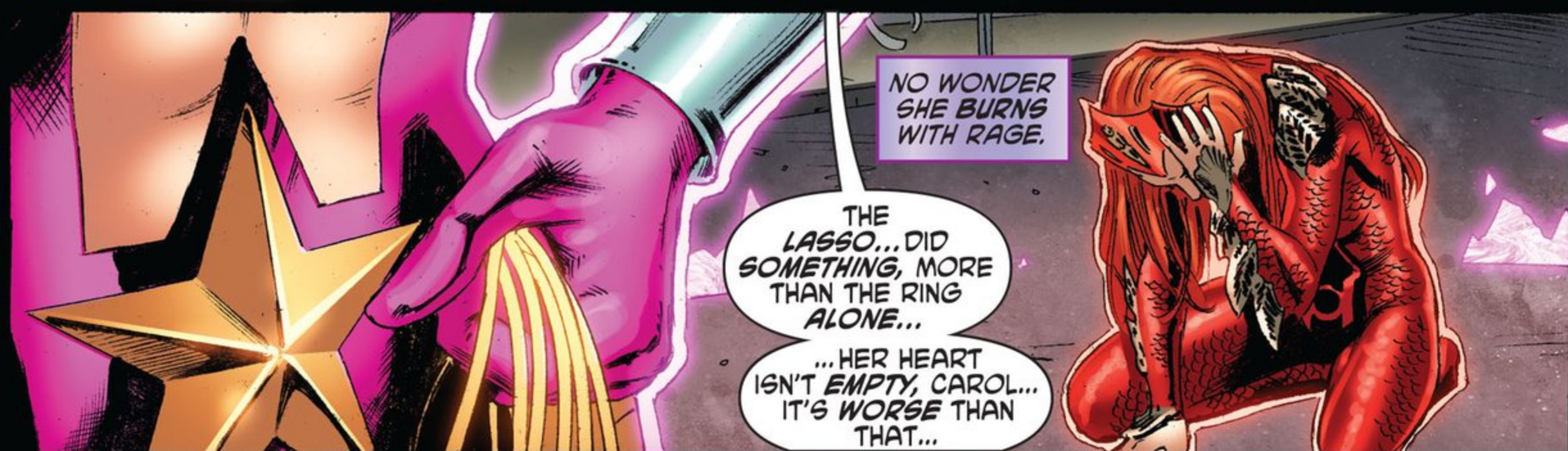


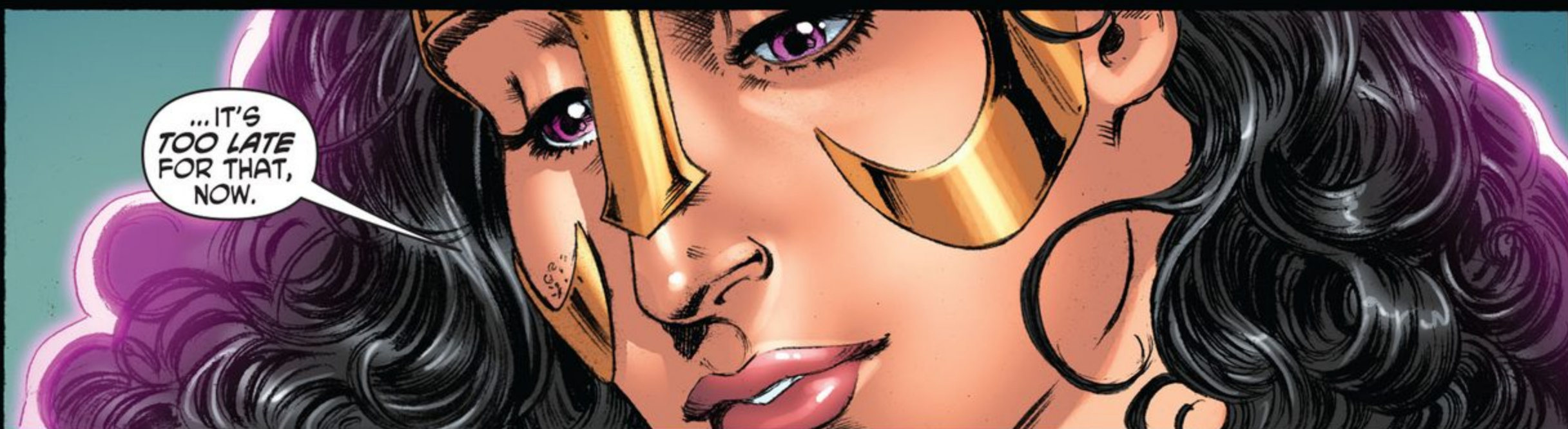
DEEPER
THAN MY RING
CAN REVEAL...

...LET
ME SHOW
YOU.

... OR AT
LEAST CAN
REVEAL
ALONE.









...IN FACT,
WE'RE GOING
TO KICK THIS
NIGHT'S
ASS.

SO
LET'S GET
ON WITH
IT.

TO BE CONTINUED IN
**BLACKEST
NIGHT!**



40
MAR '10

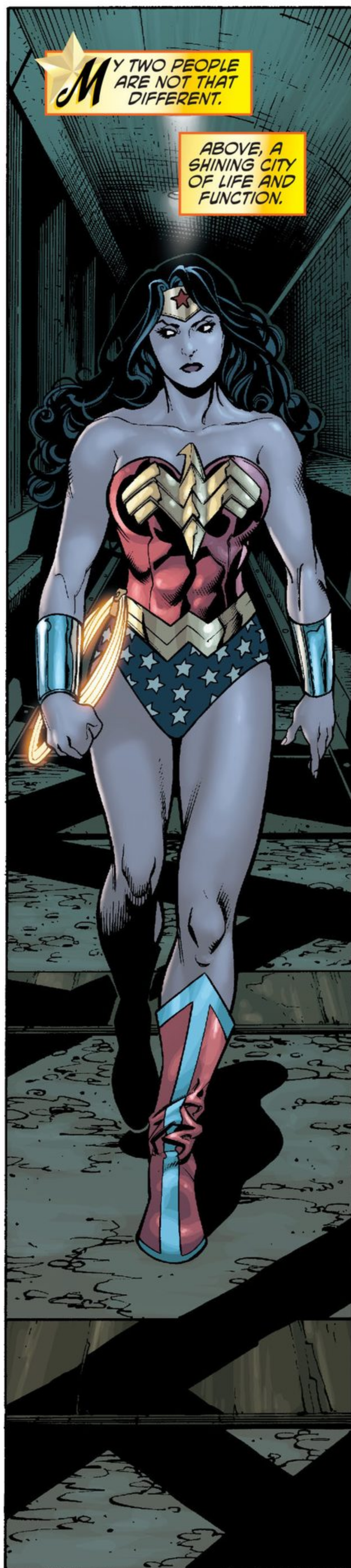
GAIL
SIMONE
AARON
LOPRESTI
MATT
RYAN

Wonder Woman



Lopresti.09
*



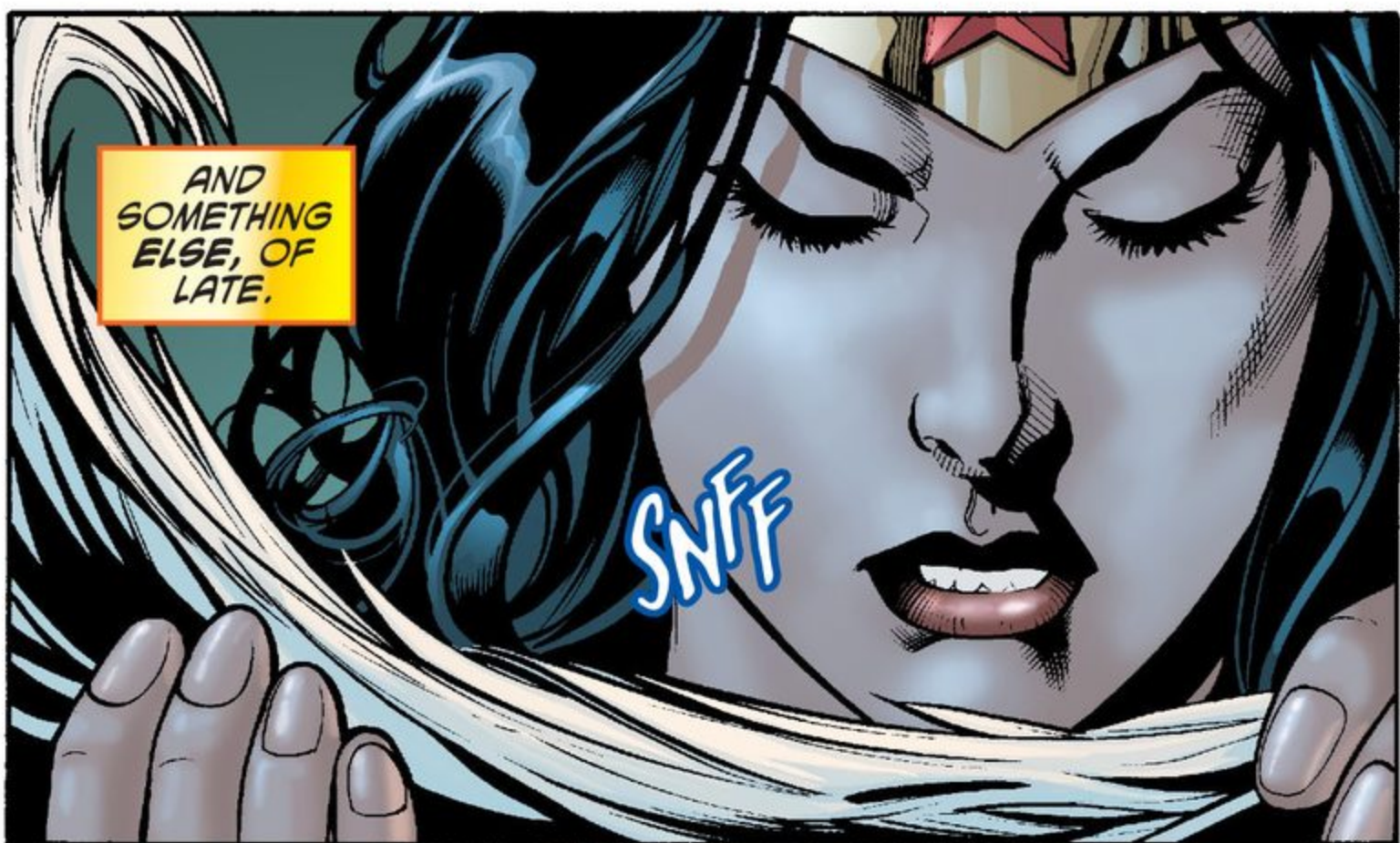


MY TWO PEOPLE ARE NOT THAT DIFFERENT.

ABOVE, A SHINING CITY OF LIFE AND FUNCTION.



WHILE ANOTHER WORLD OF TUNNELS AND ALCOVES EXISTS IN THE UNDERWORLD, MAKING PERFECT HOMES FOR VERMIN AND THE FORGOTTEN.



AND SOMETHING ELSE, OF LATE.

SNFF



THIRTY MINUTES AGO, SOMETHING DEVOURED AN ENTIRE METRO SUBWAY TRAIN IN THIS EXACT TUNNEL.



AND IT LOOKS LIKE WHATEVER HAD THAT MEAL HAS COME BACK.



TO FEED
AGAIN.

A MURDER OF CROWS PART ONE

hit the ground running

GAIL SIMONE • writer

AARON LOPRESTI • penciller

MATT RYAN • inker

BRAD ANDERSON • colorist

TRAVIS LANHAM • letterer

SEAN RYAN • associate editor

BRIAN CUNNINGHAM • editor

WONDER WOMAN created by
WILLIAM MOULTON MARSHALL



SERPENTS.

THEY NEVER
LEARN ABOUT
PORTION
CONTROL.



FOR A LONG TIME, THE
LIGHTS OF THE MODERN
LIFE KEPT THE DARK
OF LEGEND AT BAY.

THOSE UNDERWORLDERS AND
THE GODS THAT SPAWNED THEM
WERE BAFFLED AND REPELLED
BY THE MACHINES AND
TECHNOLOGY OF THIS WORLD.

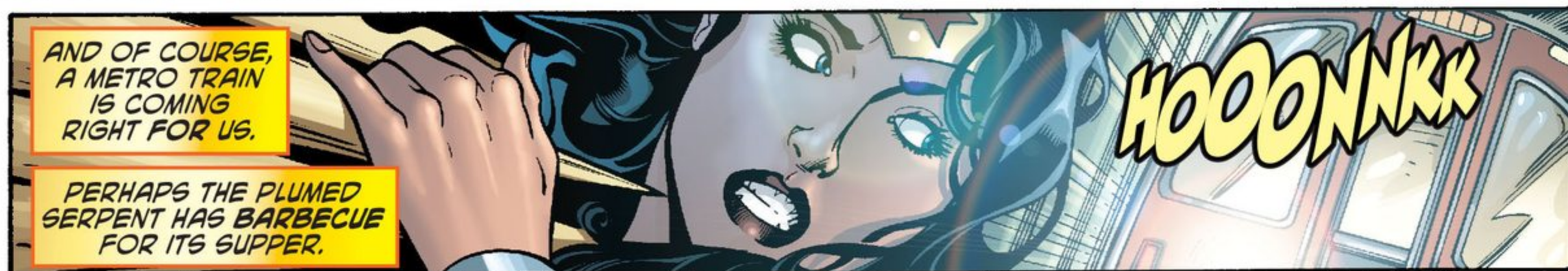
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING.



A TINY
MORSSSEL, BUT
ONE I CONSSSUME
WITH ENTHUSSSIASSM,
PRINCESS OF
PREY.

REALLY.

HOW
FLATTERING.



AND OF COURSE,
A METRO TRAIN
IS COMING
RIGHT FOR US.

PERHAPS THE PLUMED
SERPENT HAS BARBECUE
FOR ITS SUPPER.

HOOONNKK

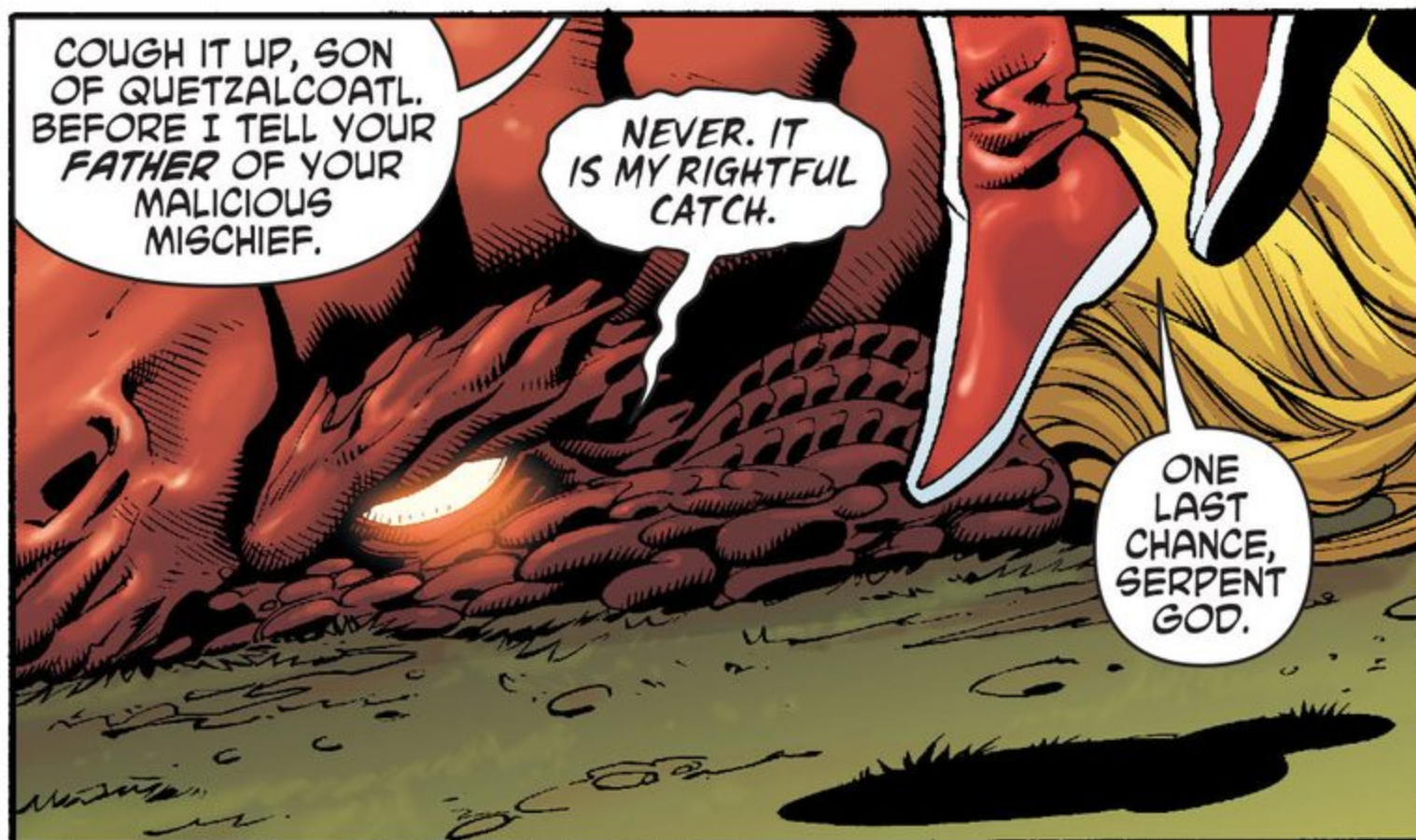


KRACKK

THEN
AGAIN...

...PERHAPS
NOT.





COUGH IT UP, SON OF QUETZALCOATL. BEFORE I TELL YOUR FATHER OF YOUR MALICIOUS MISCHIEF.

NEVER. IT IS MY RIGHTFUL CATCH.

ONE LAST CHANCE, SERPENT GOD.



OR ELSE I'LL TAKE THE REST OF YOUR TEETH AND YOU CAN GUM YOUR MEALS FOR THE NEXT FEW CENTURIES, AND THEN... AND THEN, SNAKE LORD...

... THEN I'LL START TAKING THINGS FROM YOU THAT YOU'LL REALLY MISS.

CURSE YOU, YOU AND ALL YOUR KIND.



AKCKCKCKCK...

EXCUSE ME.

I KNOW THIS GOD. HE HAS NEVER BEEN... A CONSUMER OF HUMAN FLESH BEFORE. HE'D RATHER GET PRAISE FROM PEOPLE THAN BE SATIED BY THEM.

WHY IS HE HERE?



NO ONE SEEMS BADLY INJURED, BLESS THE GODS.

IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?

YOU'RE SAFE NOW, EVERYONE. PLEASE EXIT CAREFULLY.



PRINCESS... WONDER WOMAN... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL YOU.

DIANA IS FINE, SISTER.

WATCH YOUR STEP, PLEASE.

MY CHILDREN WANTED TO THANK YOU.

WE GOT EATEN BY A SNAKE!

SUCH A GLORIOUS
PHENOMENON.





BE WARY,
PRINCESS.

EVEN NOW,
YOUR CITY
SMELLSS LIKE
A SSLAUGHTER-
HOUSE.

9 FIND WHEN A
SERPENT GOD
BOTHERS TO
GIVE YOU A WARNING
LIKE THAT...

...IT IS ONLY
PRUDENT
TO TAKE
HEED.



HM.
NOTHING
FOR IT, I
SUPPOSE.

UNFORTUNATELY,
FIRST...

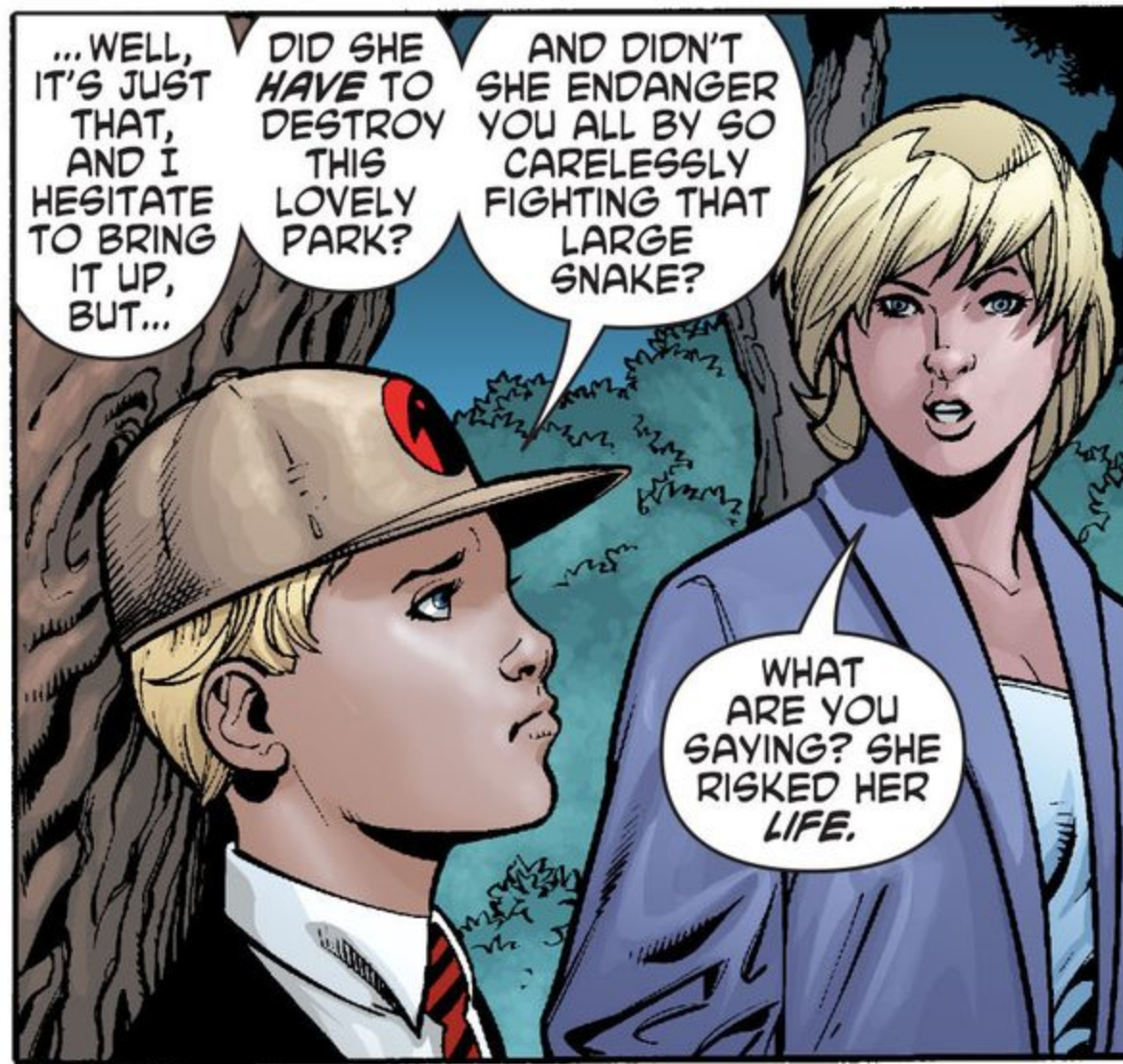
...I SUPPOSE
IT'S LEFT TO
ME TO DO
THE DISHES.



I'M EVER
SO PLEASED
THAT YOU ARE
SAFE FROM THAT
HORRIBLE
CREATURE.

WONDER
WOMAN SAVED
US.

SHE
CERTAINLY
DID, ONLY...



...WELL,
IT'S JUST
THAT,
AND I
HESITATE
TO BRING
IT UP,
BUT...

DID SHE
HAVE TO
DESTROY
THIS
LOVELY
PARK?

AND DIDN'T
SHE ENDANGER
YOU ALL BY SO
CARELESSLY
FIGHTING THAT
LARGE
SNAKE?

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING? SHE
RISKED HER
LIFE.



YES, SHE
DID, AND BLESS
HER FOR THAT
SELFLESS ACT.
STILL...

...MAYBE
SHE ONLY WANTS
THE GLORY?

I WONDER. SHE
SEEMED AWFULLY
CHUMMY WITH THE
SNAKE JUST
NOW.

OH, YES,
EVER SO
CHUMMY!



YOU DON'T SUPPOSE,
I MEAN, YOU DON'T THINK
THEY COULD HAVE CONSPIRED
TO DO THIS? FOR THE
ATTENTION,
I MEAN?

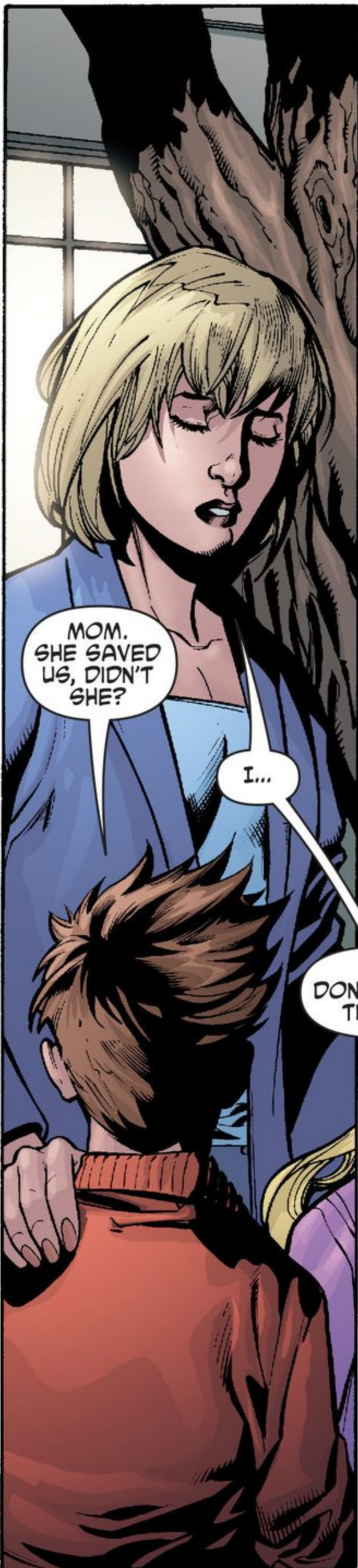
HEAVENS,
WHAT A
HORRENDOUS
THOUGHT!

NOT DIANA!
NEVER DIANA!



I'M CERTAIN YOU'RE RIGHT, SCORPION. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS THINKING.

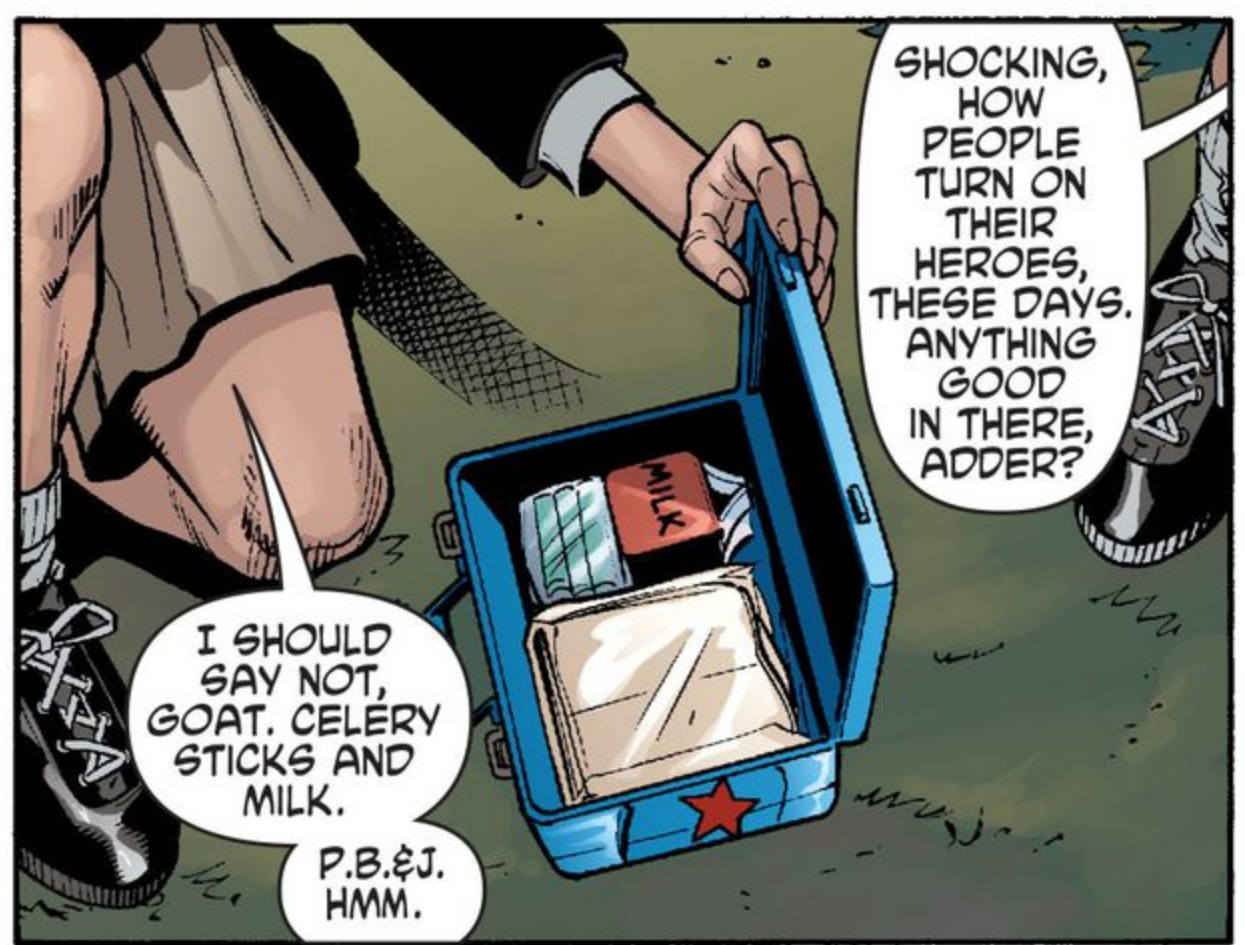
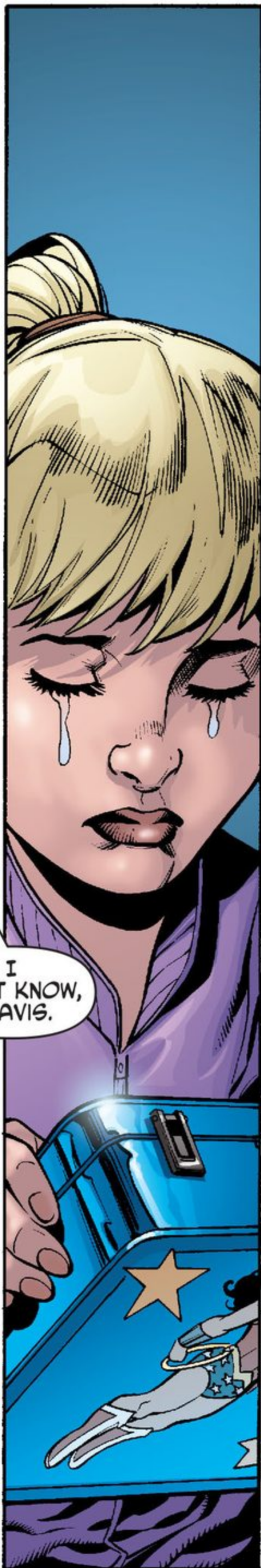
A VERY GOOD EVENING TO YOU, MA'AM. SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU.



MOM. SHE SAVED US, DIDN'T SHE?

I...

I DON'T KNOW, TRAVIS.



SHOCKING, HOW PEOPLE TURN ON THEIR HEROES, THESE DAYS. ANYTHING GOOD IN THERE, ADDER?

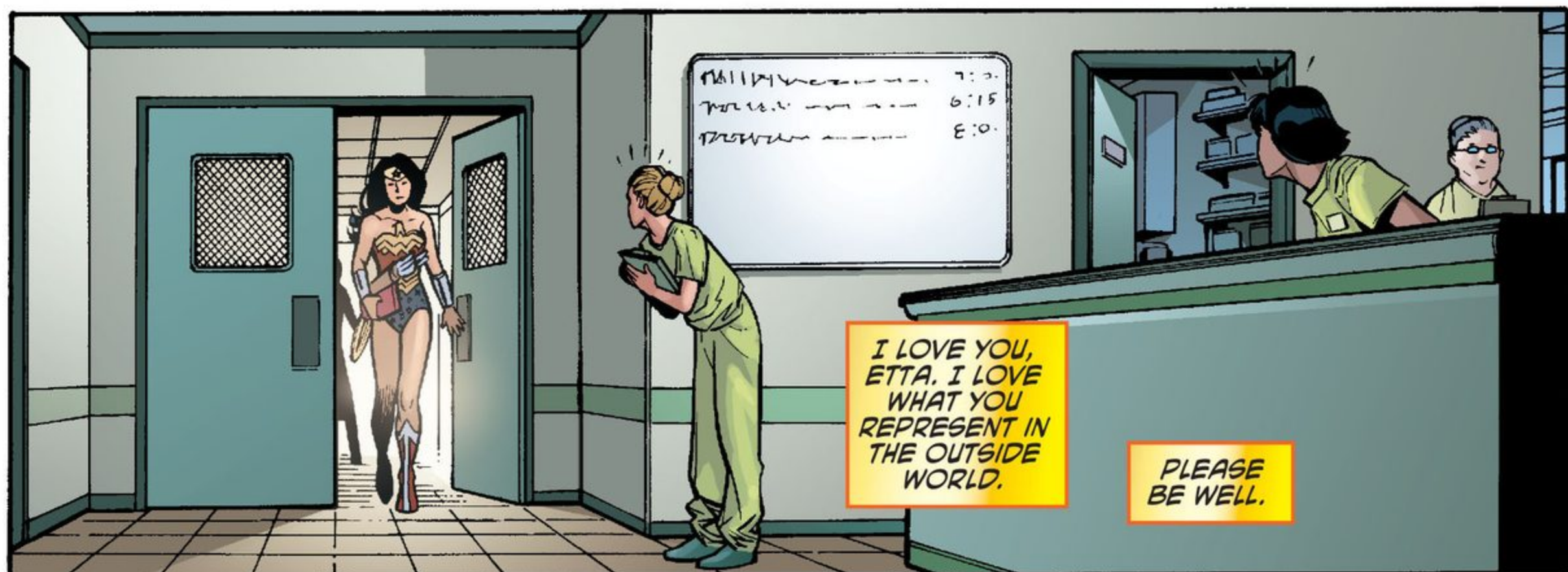
I SHOULD SAY NOT, GOAT. CELERY STICKS AND MILK.

P.B.&J. Hmm.



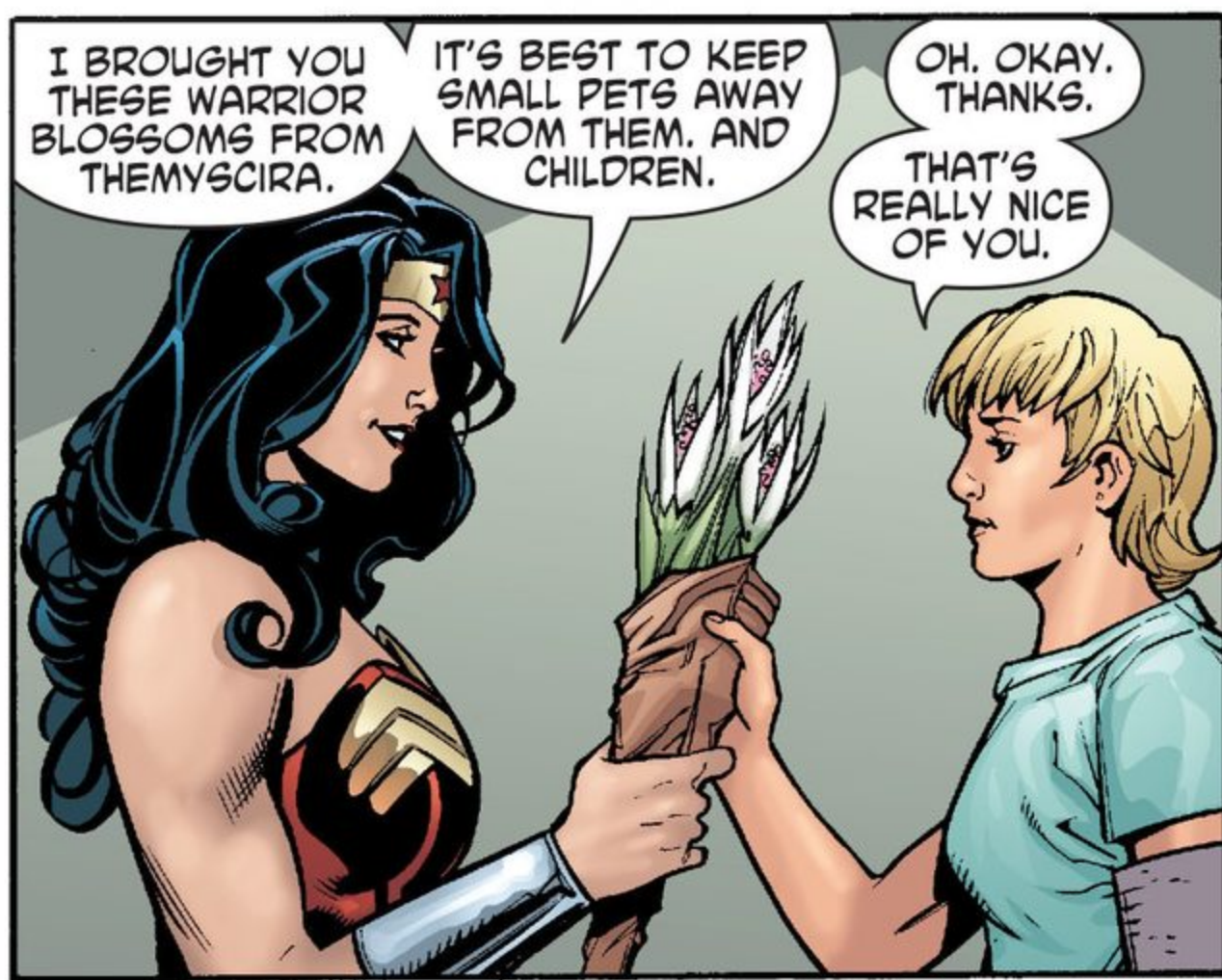
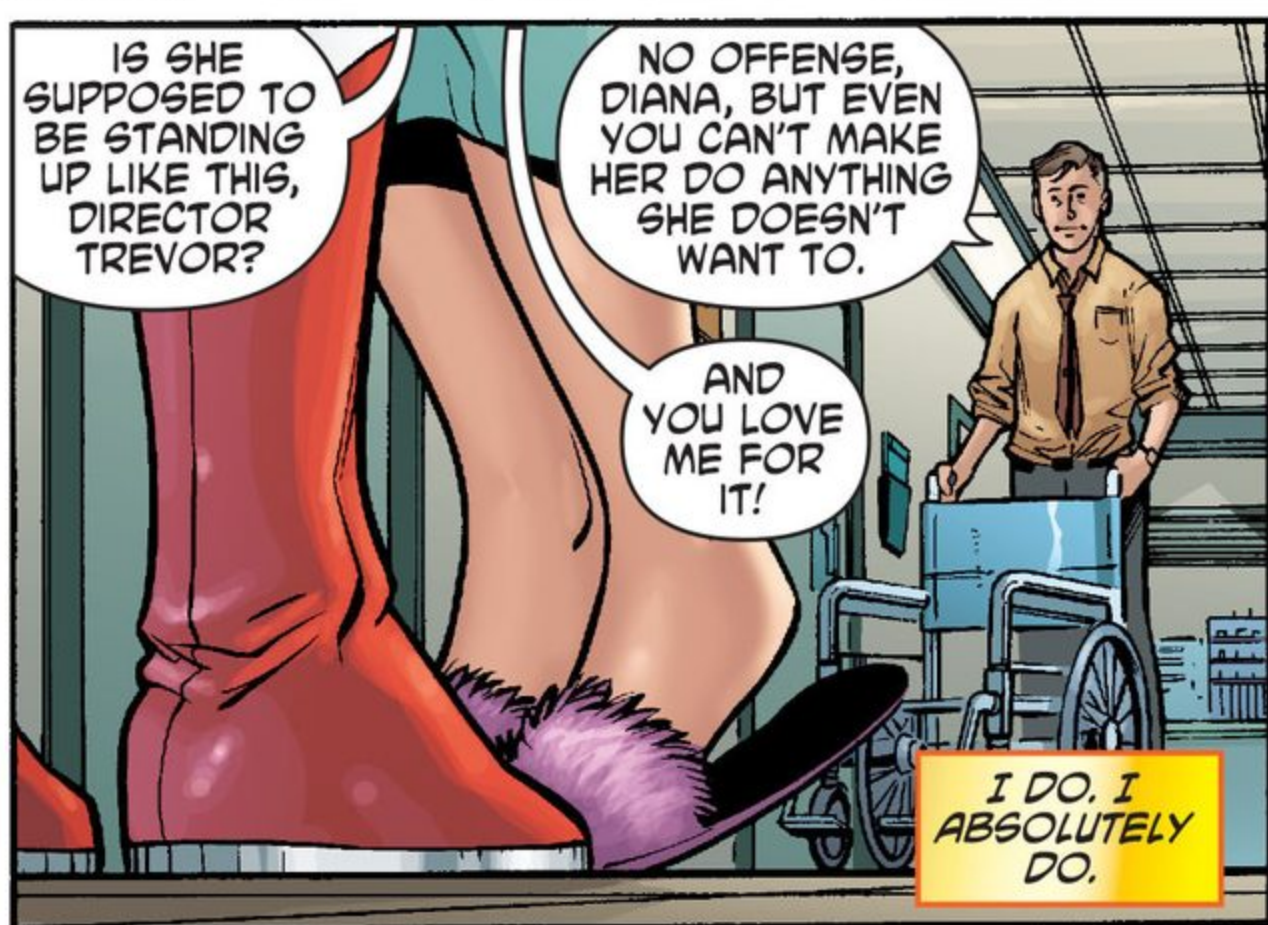
I HAD HOPED FOR BLOOD.

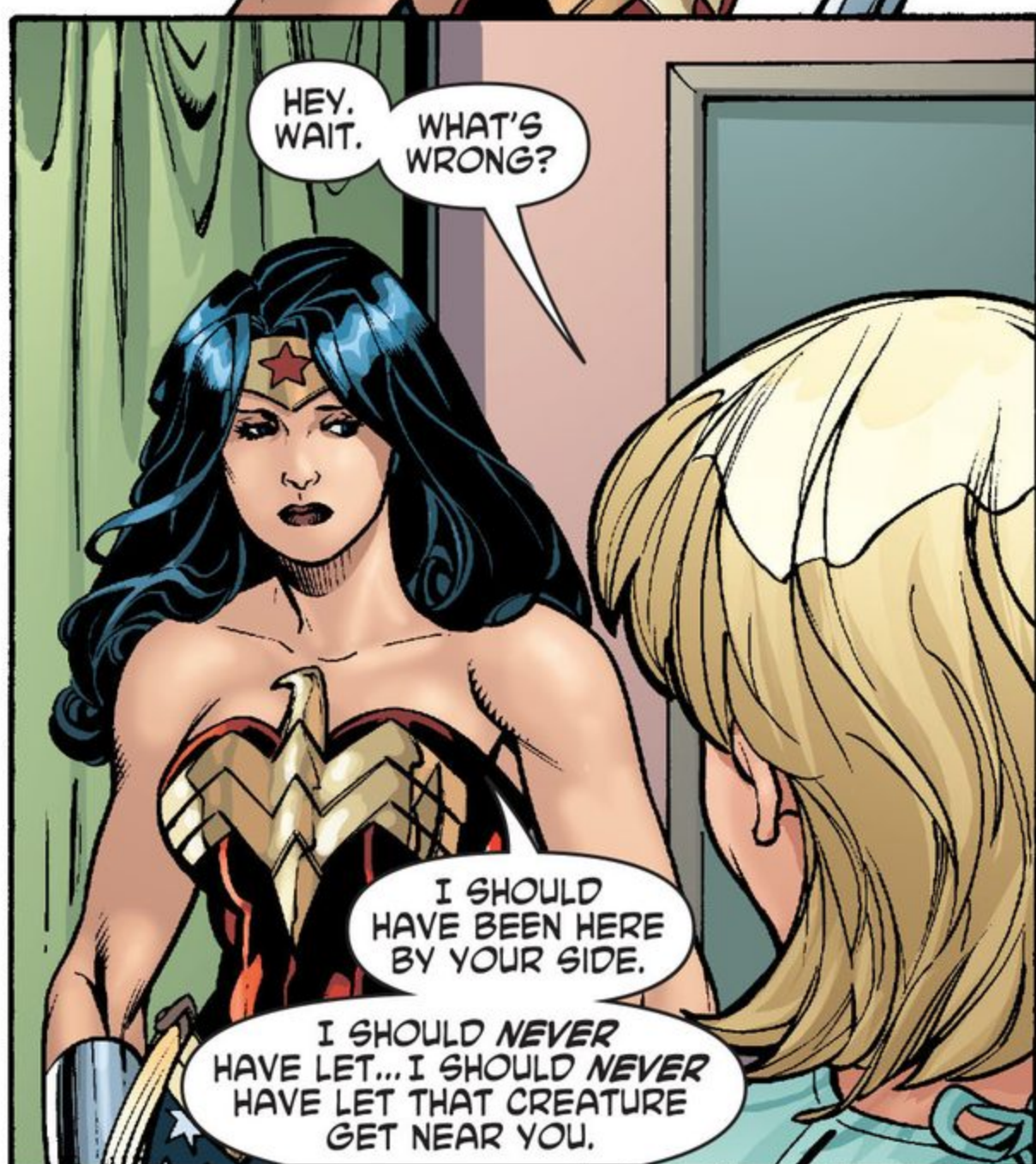
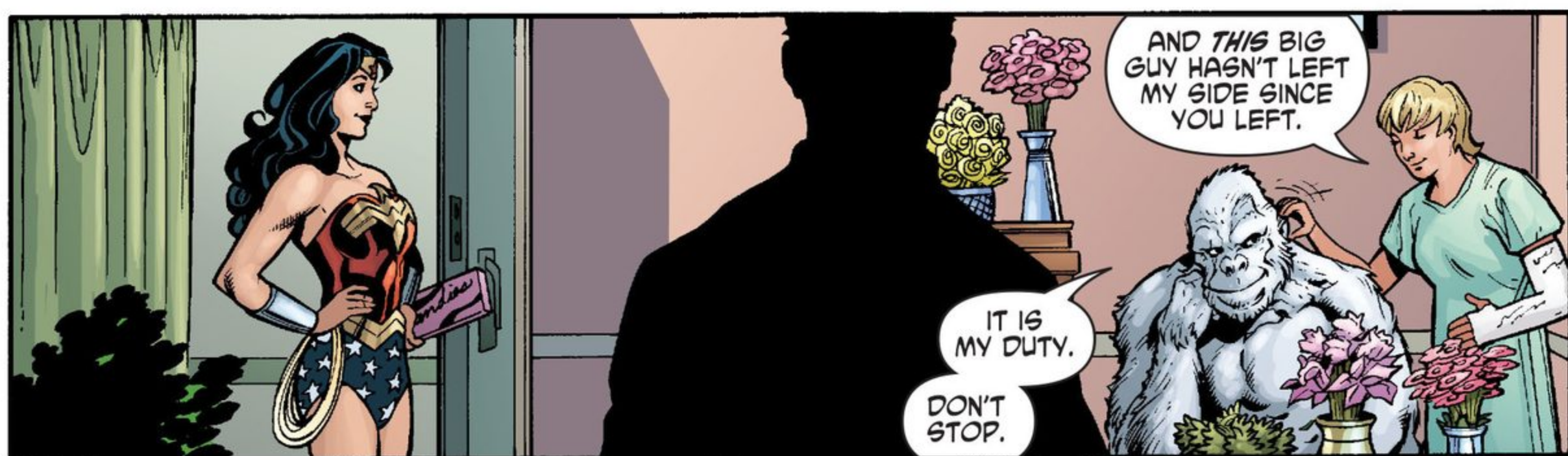
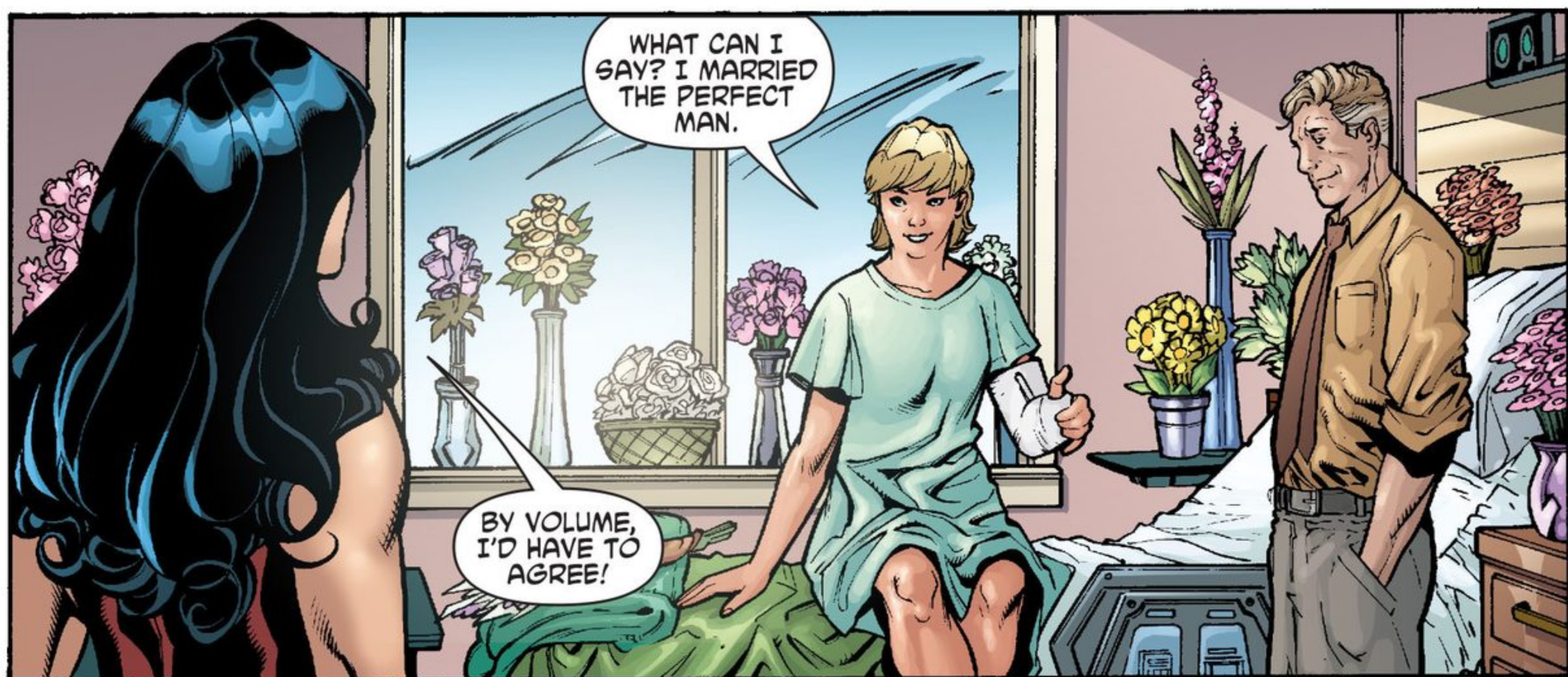
RATHER HAD MY HEART SET, IN FACT.



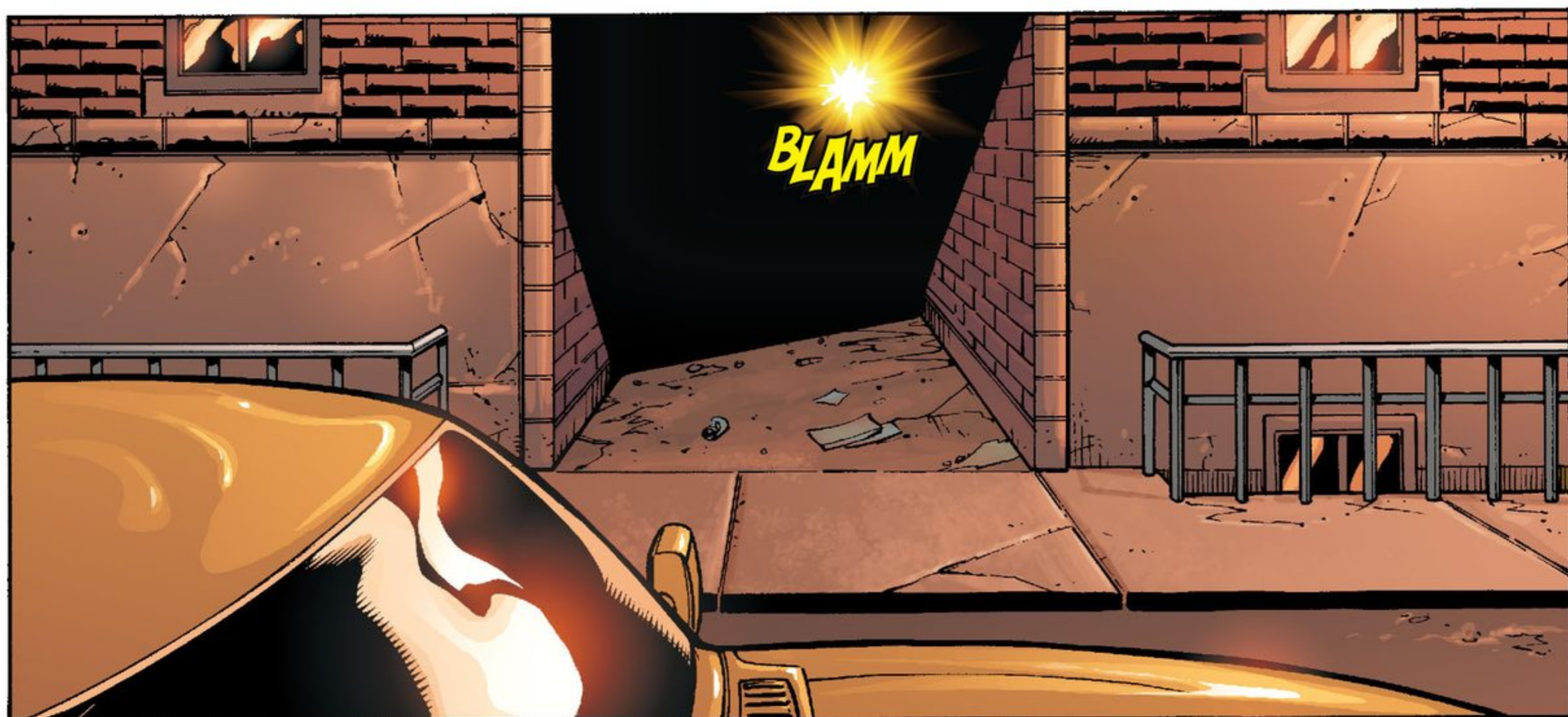
I MISSED YOU TERRIBLY.

CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?

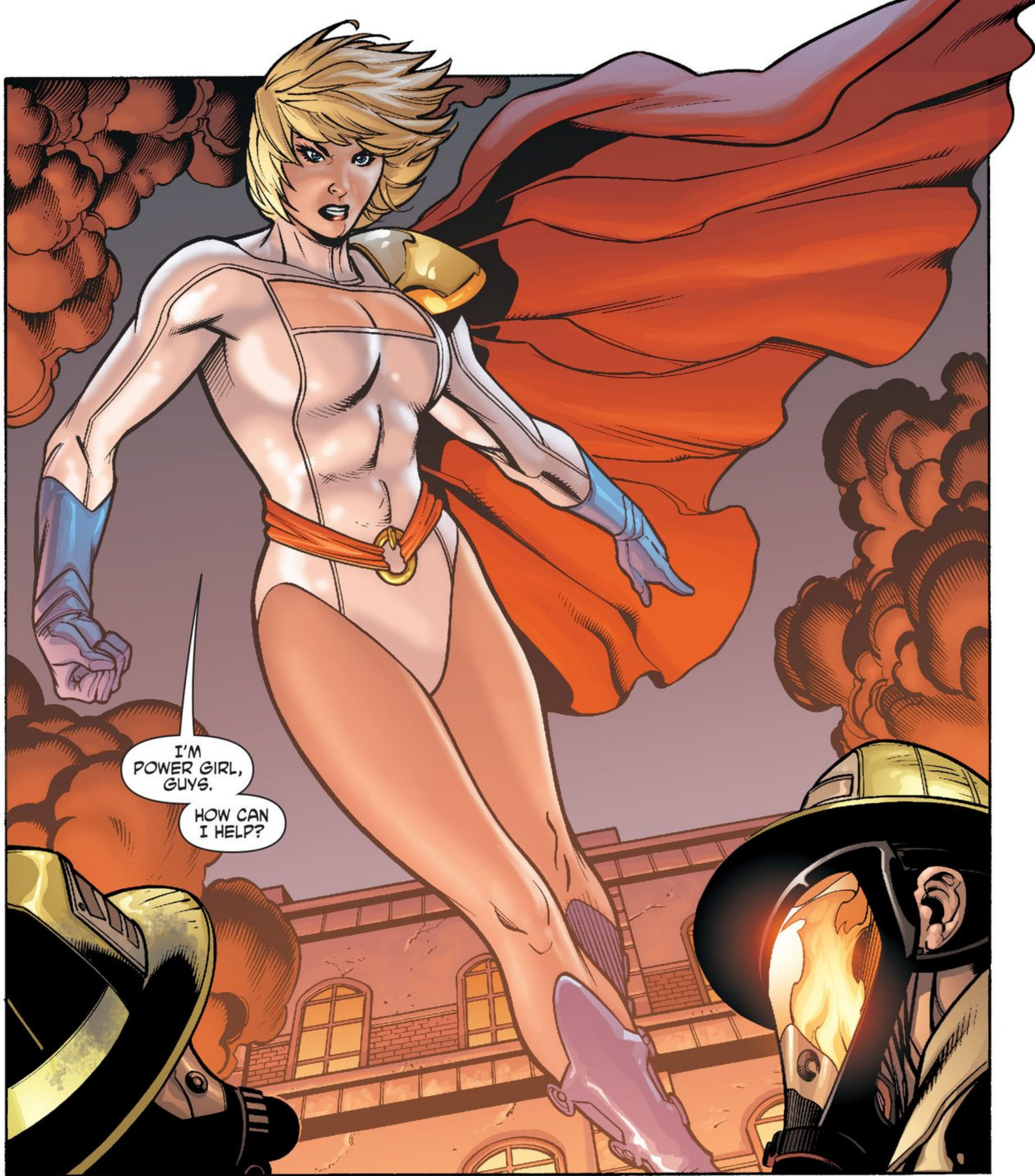












I'VE BEEN A CHECKMATE OPERATIVE UNDER U.N. AUTHORITY FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

MY JOB WAS TO OBSERVE ANOMALIES IN THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE D.M.A. AND REPORT BACK TO HEADQUARTERS IN THE SWISS ALPS.

ETTA OLIVE CANDY

OPERATIVE LEVEL: KNIGHT

SPECIAL LIAISON

SECURITY COLOR: WHITESIDE

HOLD ON. WAIT.

WHAT?

"RECRUITED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, BY GREEN LANTERN AND MR. TERRIFIC THEMSELVES.

"THEY HAVE OPERATIVES EVERYWHERE, DIANA. 'PAWNS,' THEY CALL THEM.

YOUR WORK WITH THE USAF IS IMPORTANT, MISS CANDY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT.

BUT WE'RE OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

"YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND. I WAS PROUD TO BE AIR FORCE."

BUT WHEN YOUR HUSBAND IS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, AND YOUR BEST FRIEND IS AN AMAZON WARRIOR PRINCESS, WELL...

...IT CAN MAKE YOU FEEL A LITTLE INADEQUATE, YOU KNOW?

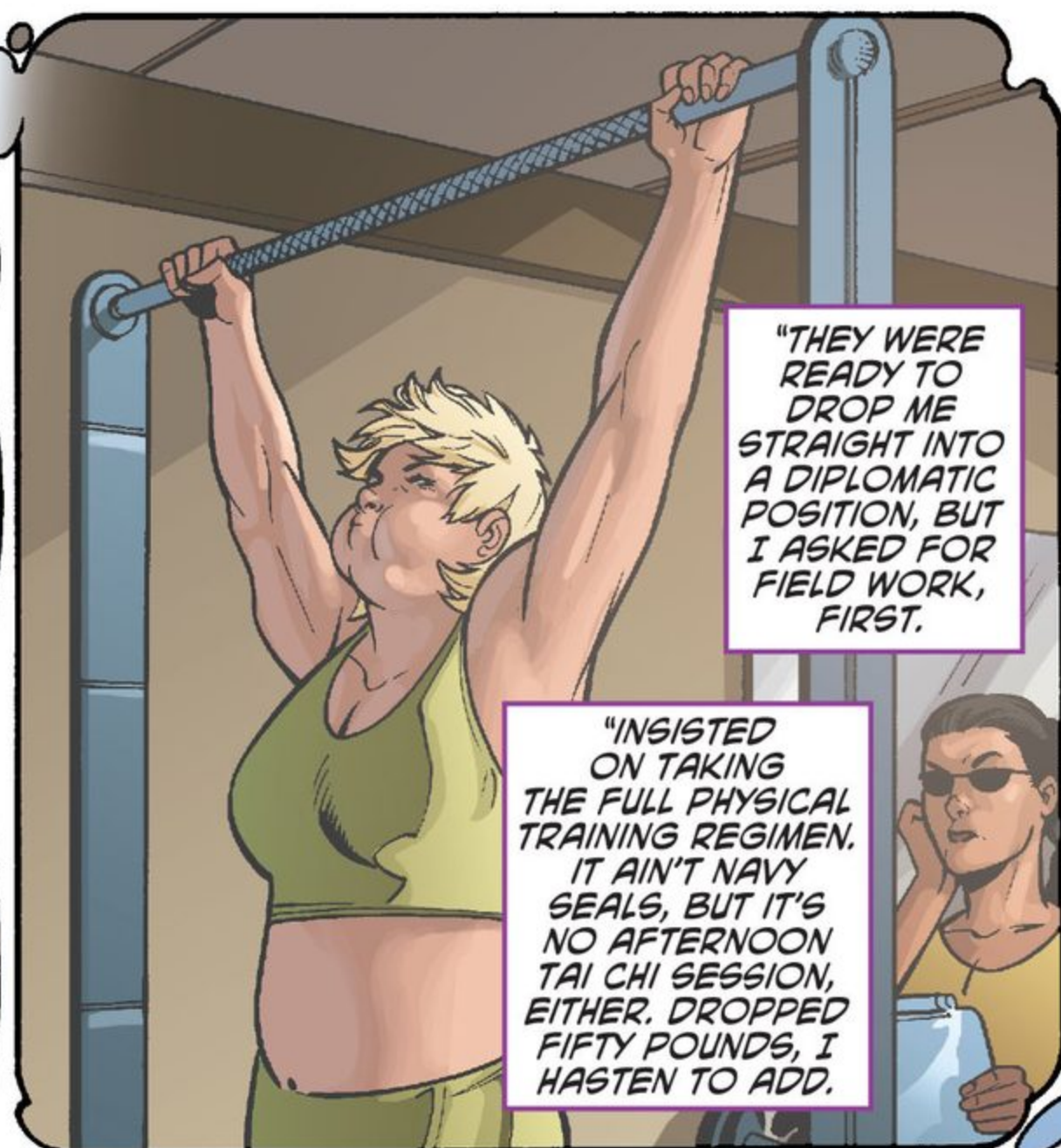
SWEETHEART--

I'M NOT BLAMING ANYONE, STEVE.



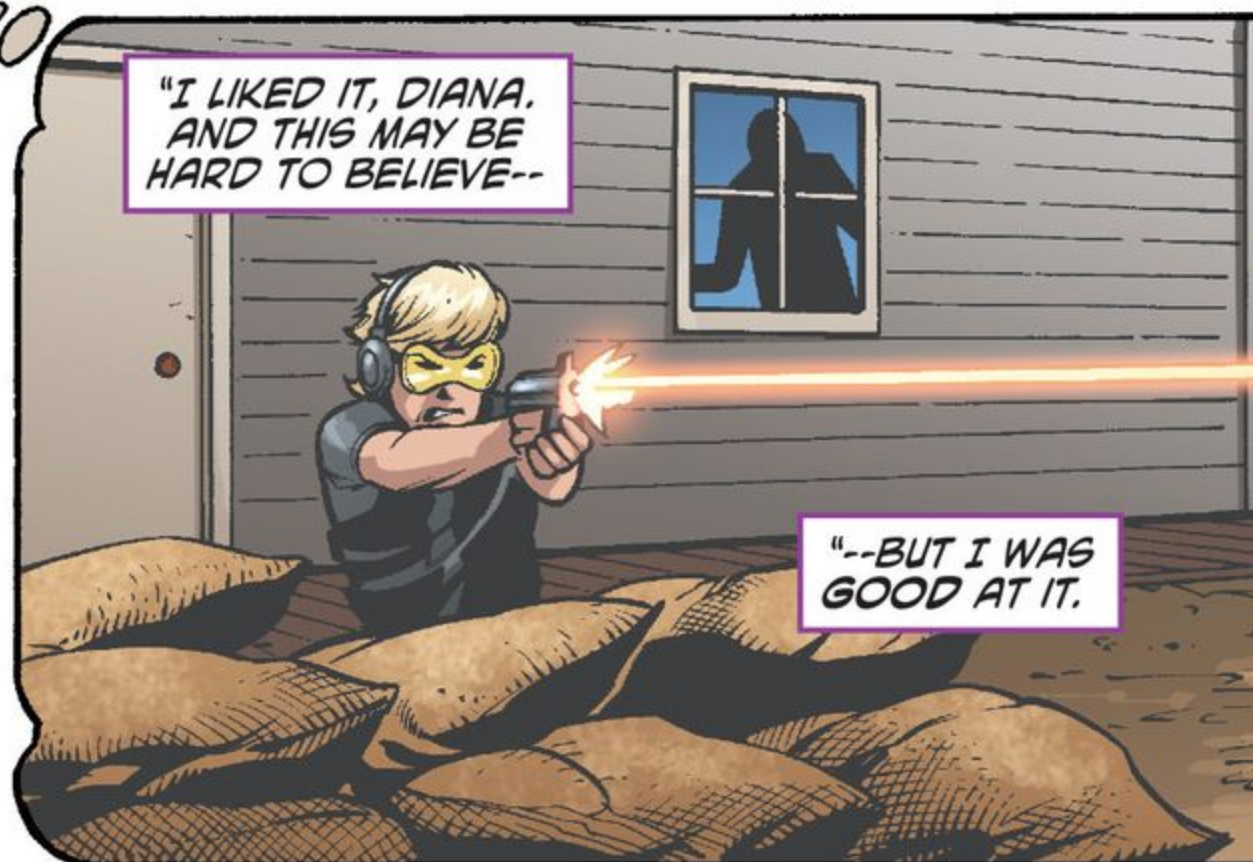
"BUT WHEN THEY OFFERED ME A CHANCE TO BE IMPORTANT... A CHANCE TO MATTER..."

"...I PUT AWAY THE PERSON I HAD BECOME AND TOOK IT."



"THEY WERE READY TO DROP ME STRAIGHT INTO A DIPLOMATIC POSITION, BUT I ASKED FOR FIELD WORK, FIRST."

"INSISTED ON TAKING THE FULL PHYSICAL TRAINING REGIMEN. IT AIN'T NAVY SEALS, BUT IT'S NO AFTERNOON TAI CHI SESSION, EITHER. DROPPED FIFTY POUNDS, I HASTEN TO ADD."



"I LIKED IT, DIANA. AND THIS MAY BE HARD TO BELIEVE--"

"--BUT I WAS GOOD AT IT."

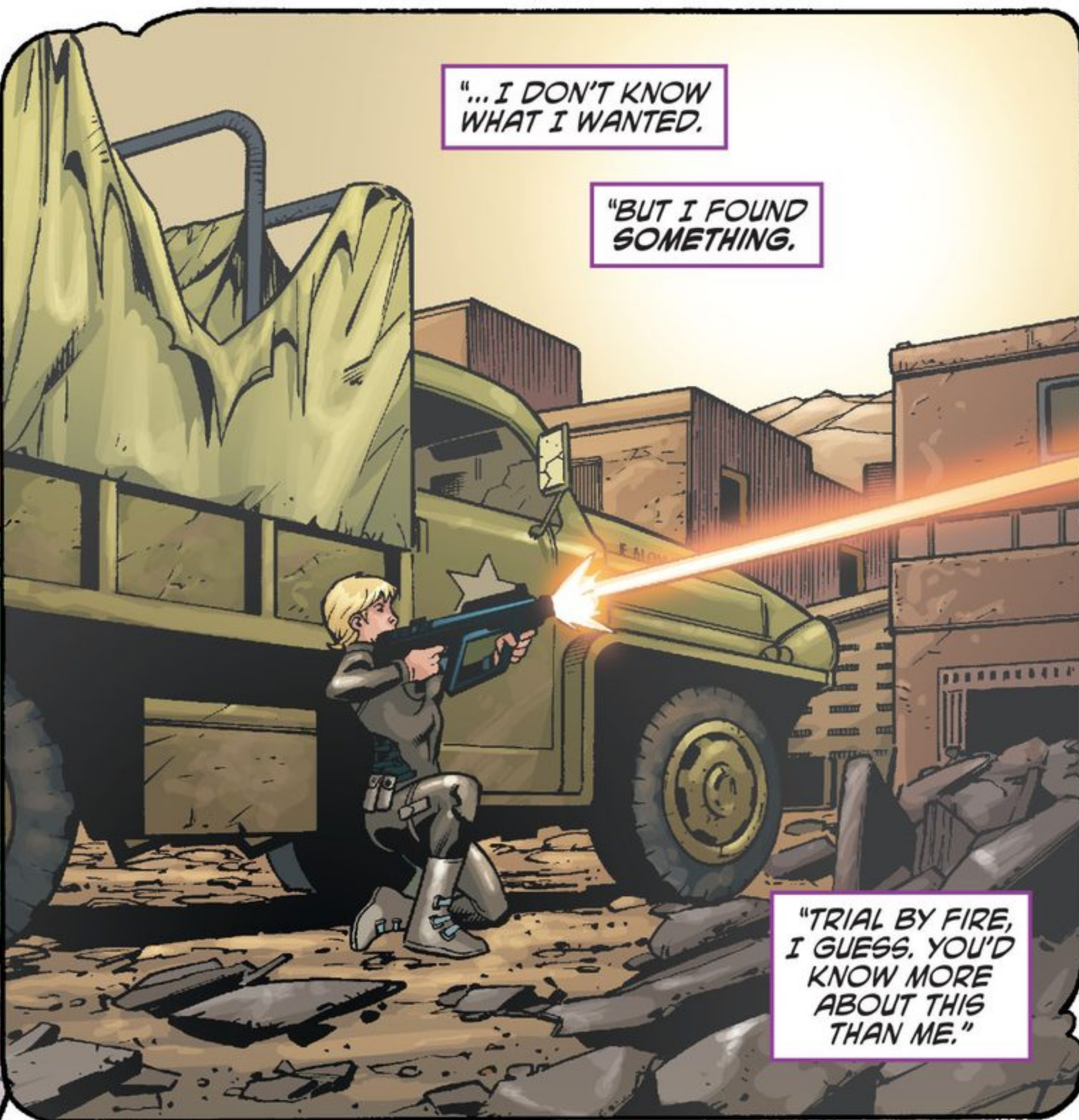


I DON'T FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE AT ALL. I KNEW YOU WERE ALWAYS FORMIDABLE.

WELL, THAT MAKES ONE OF US.

BUT I ASKED TO BE IN THE ACTION, DIANA. I WANTED...

HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY G TOM



"...I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANTED."

"BUT I FOUND SOMETHING."

"TRIAL BY FIRE, I GUESS. YOU'D KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS THAN ME."

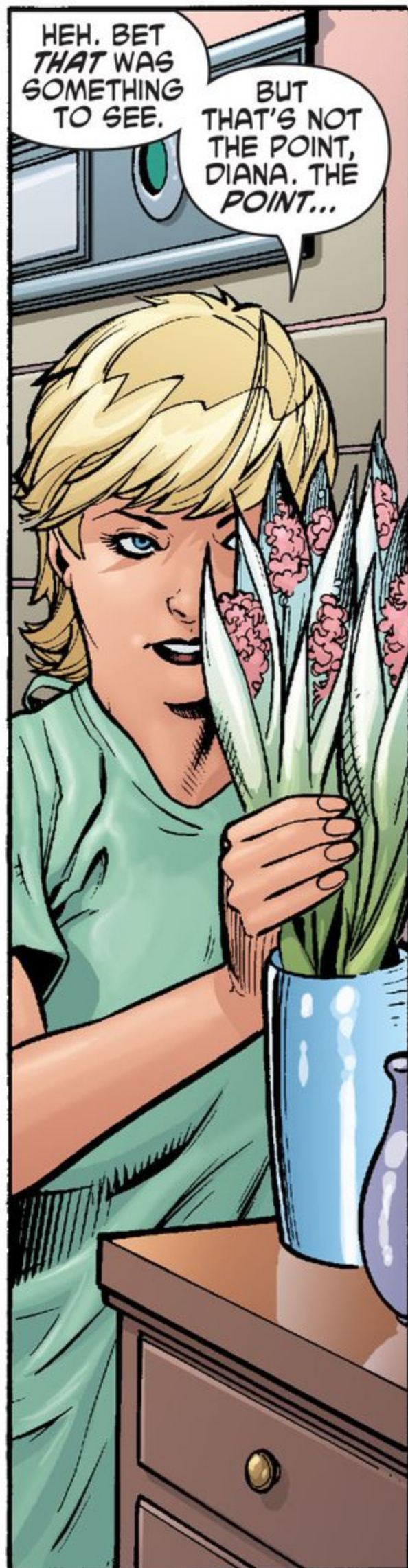
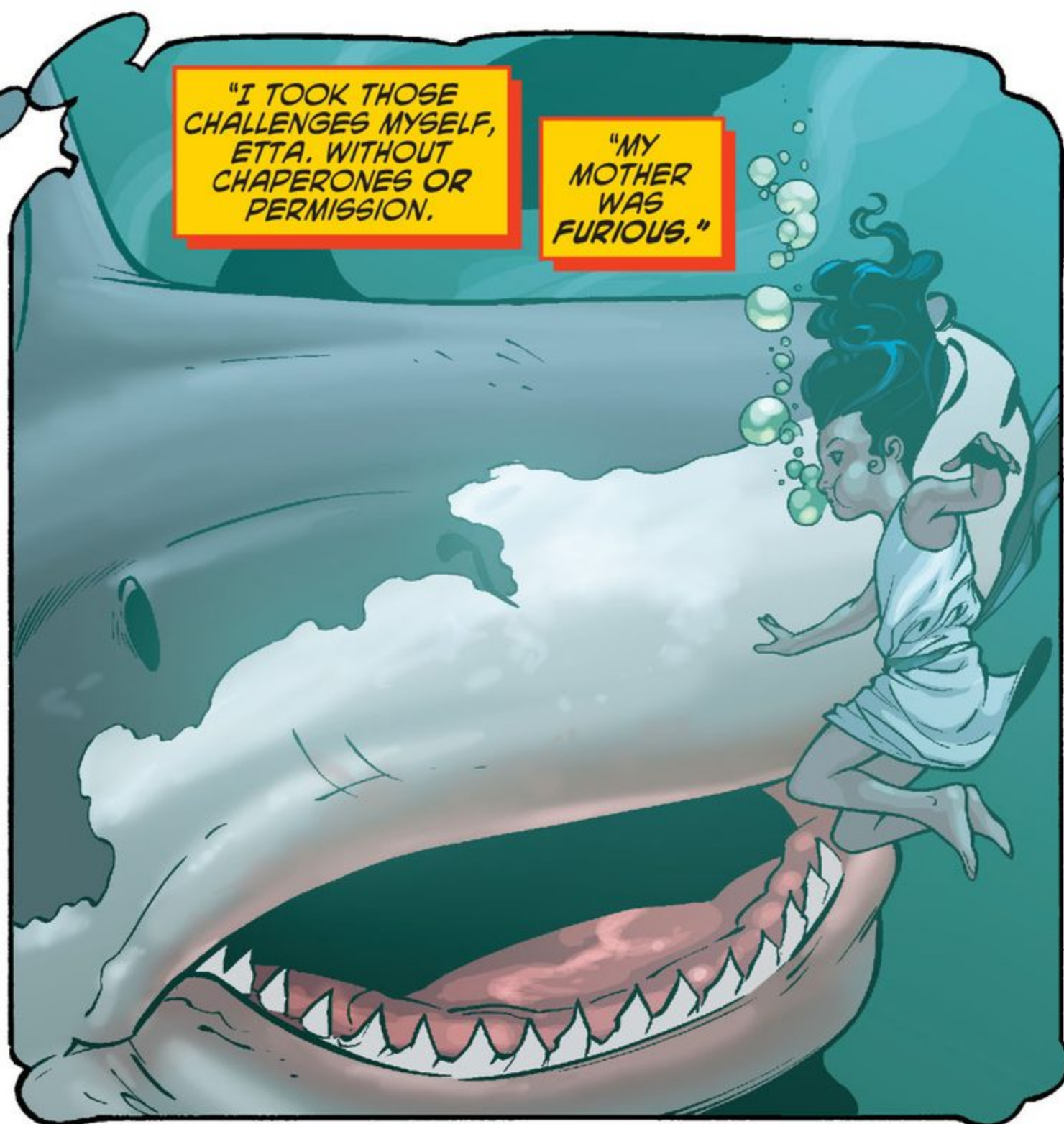
WE
AMAZONS CALL IT
"SLEEPING NEXT TO
SCORPIONS."

BY
FACING
YOUR FEAR,
YOU LEARN
TO...

...TO
CONTROL
IT. YES.
EXACTLY.

"I TOOK THOSE
CHALLENGES MYSELF,
ETTA. WITHOUT
CHAPERONES OR
PERMISSION."

"MY
MOTHER
WAS
FURIOUS."



HEH. BET
THAT WAS
SOMETHING
TO SEE.

BUT
THAT'S NOT
THE POINT,
DIANA. THE
POINT...



...IS THAT
I *ASKED* FOR
THIS LIFE. AND
I *LOVE* IT.

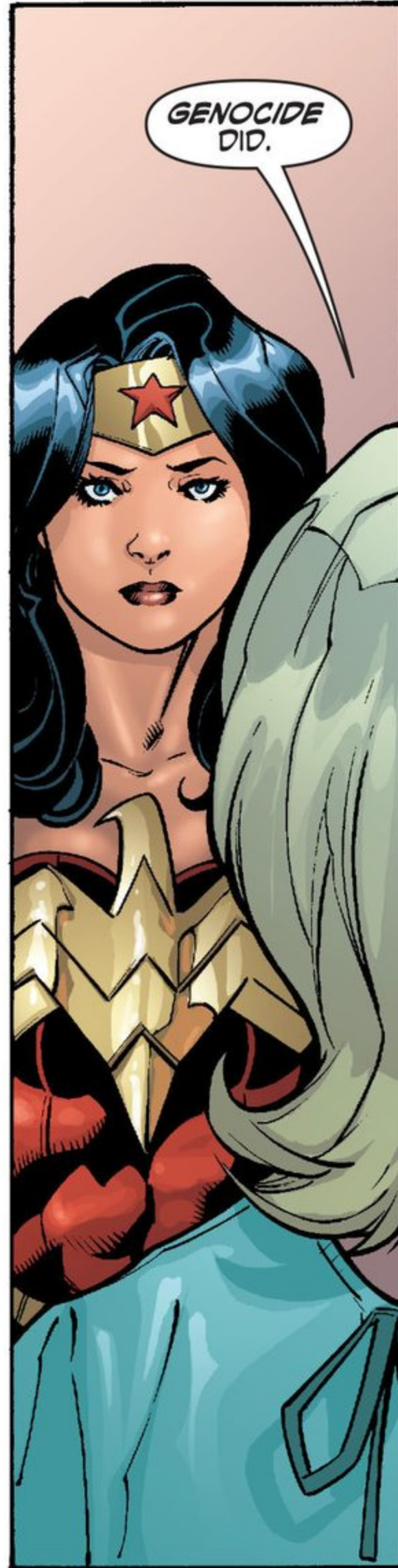
GENOCIDE
OR NO, HOSPITAL
OR NO.

IT WAS
MY DECISIONS
THAT PUT ME
HERE.

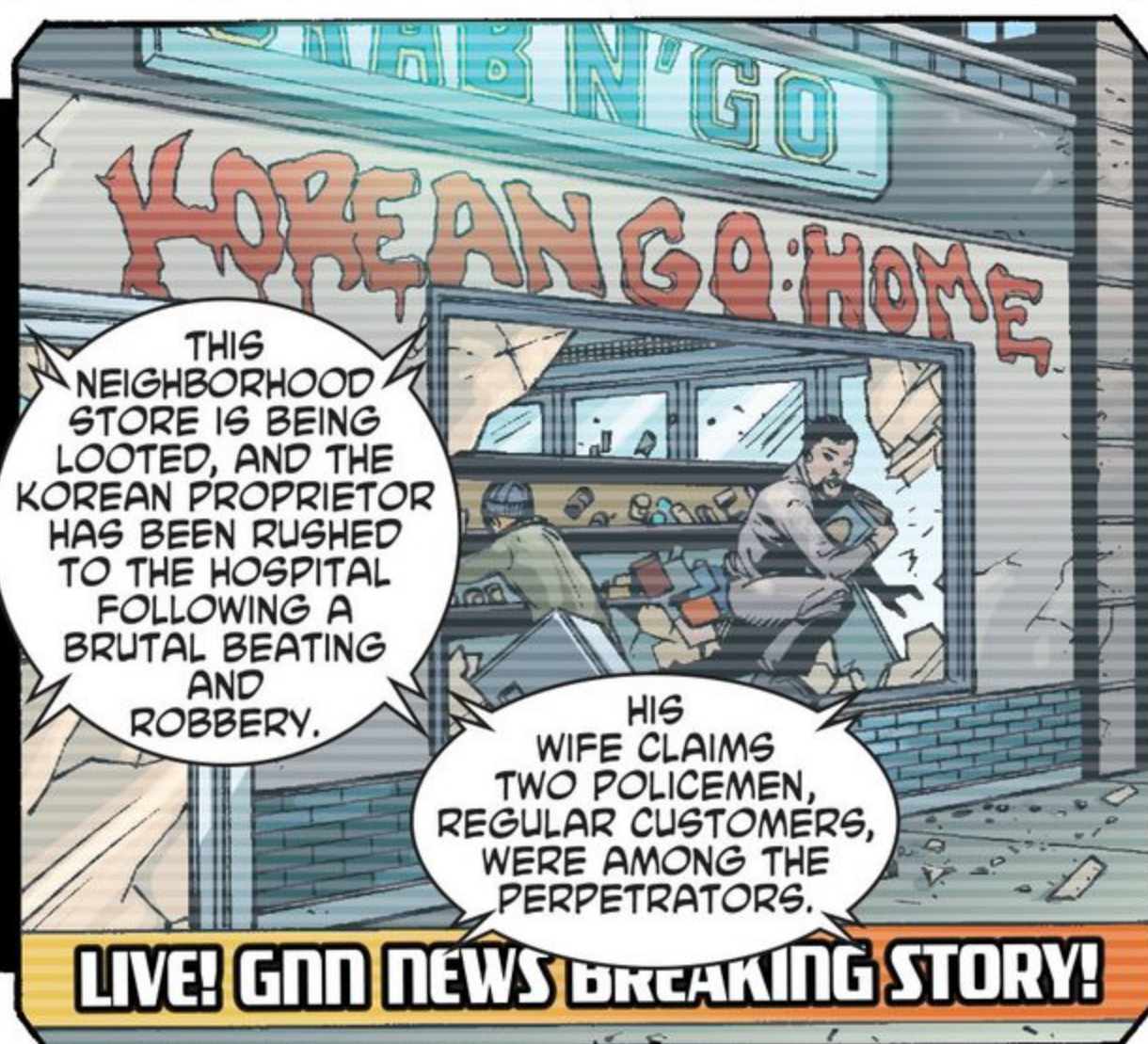
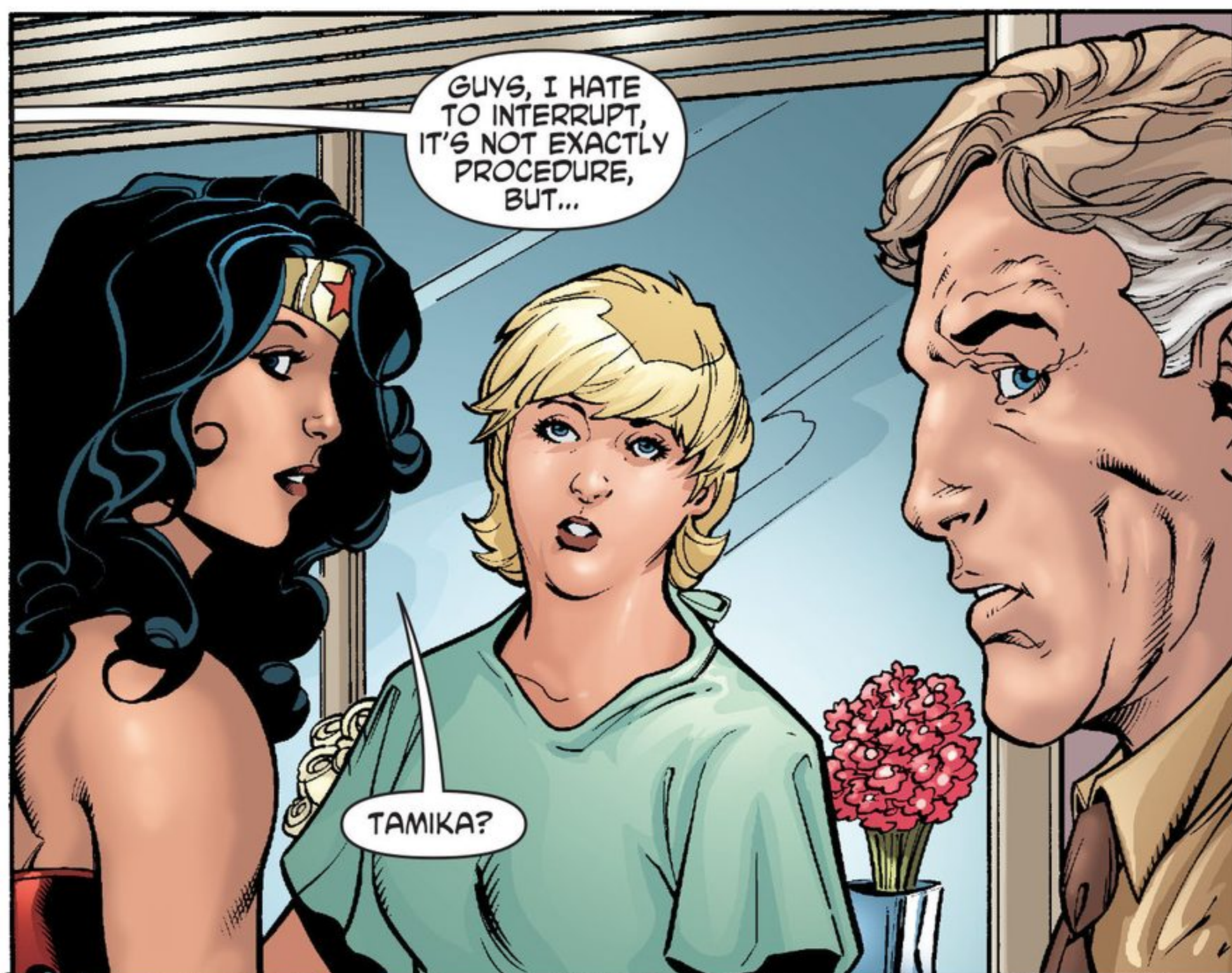
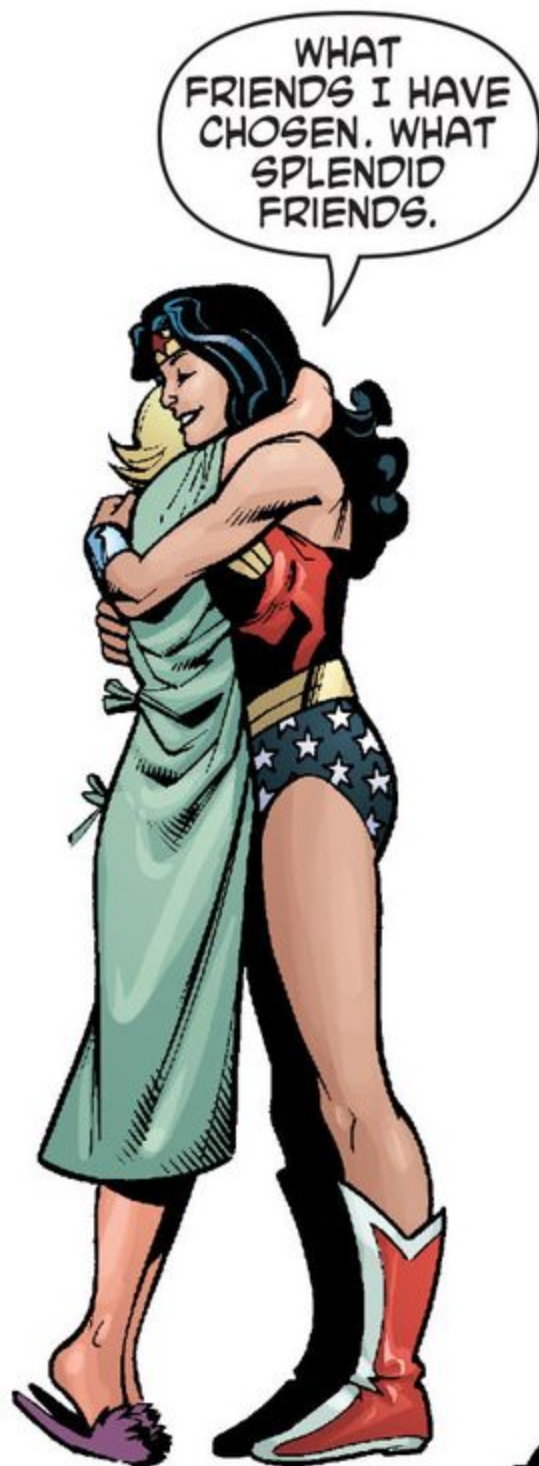


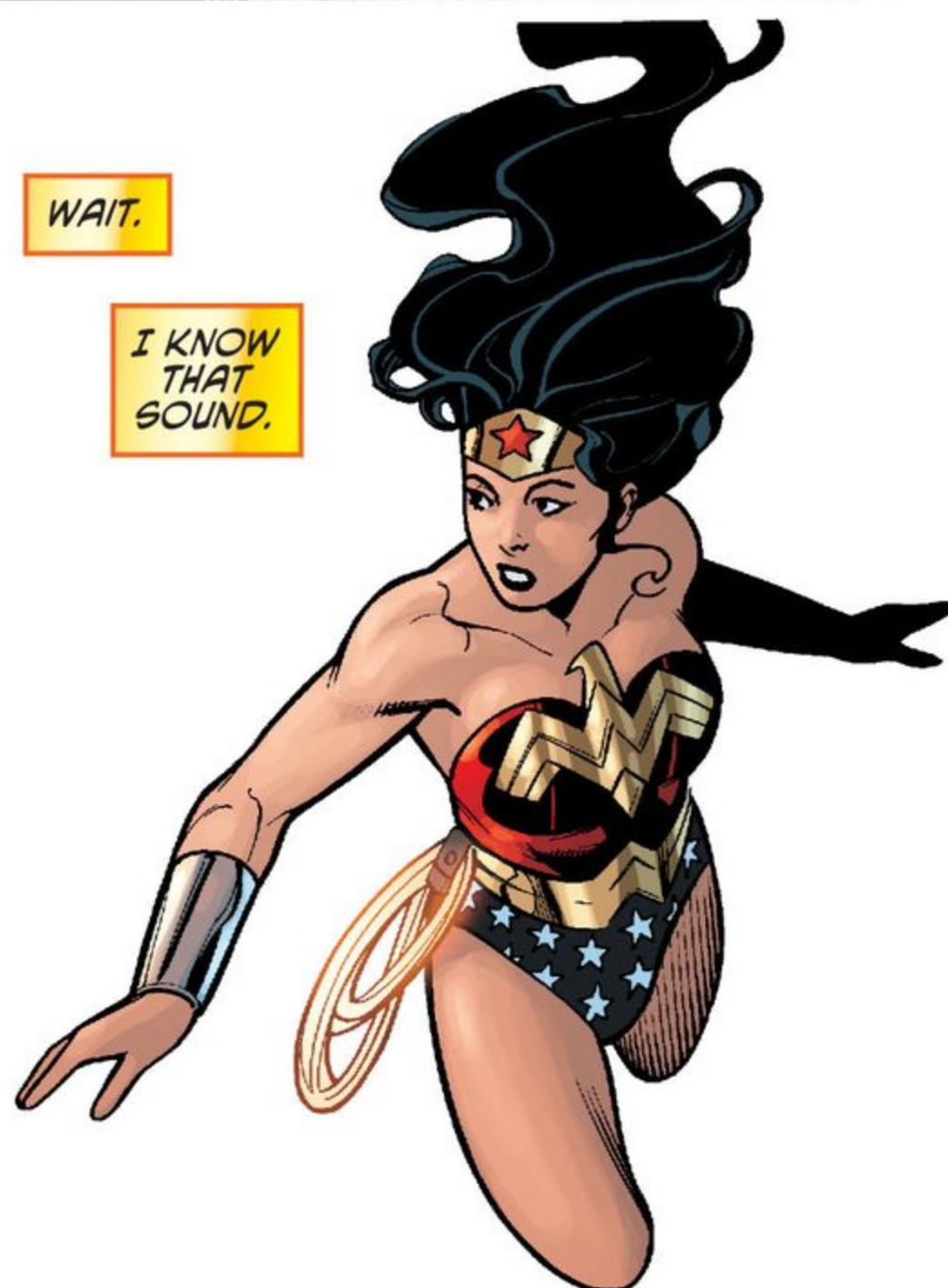
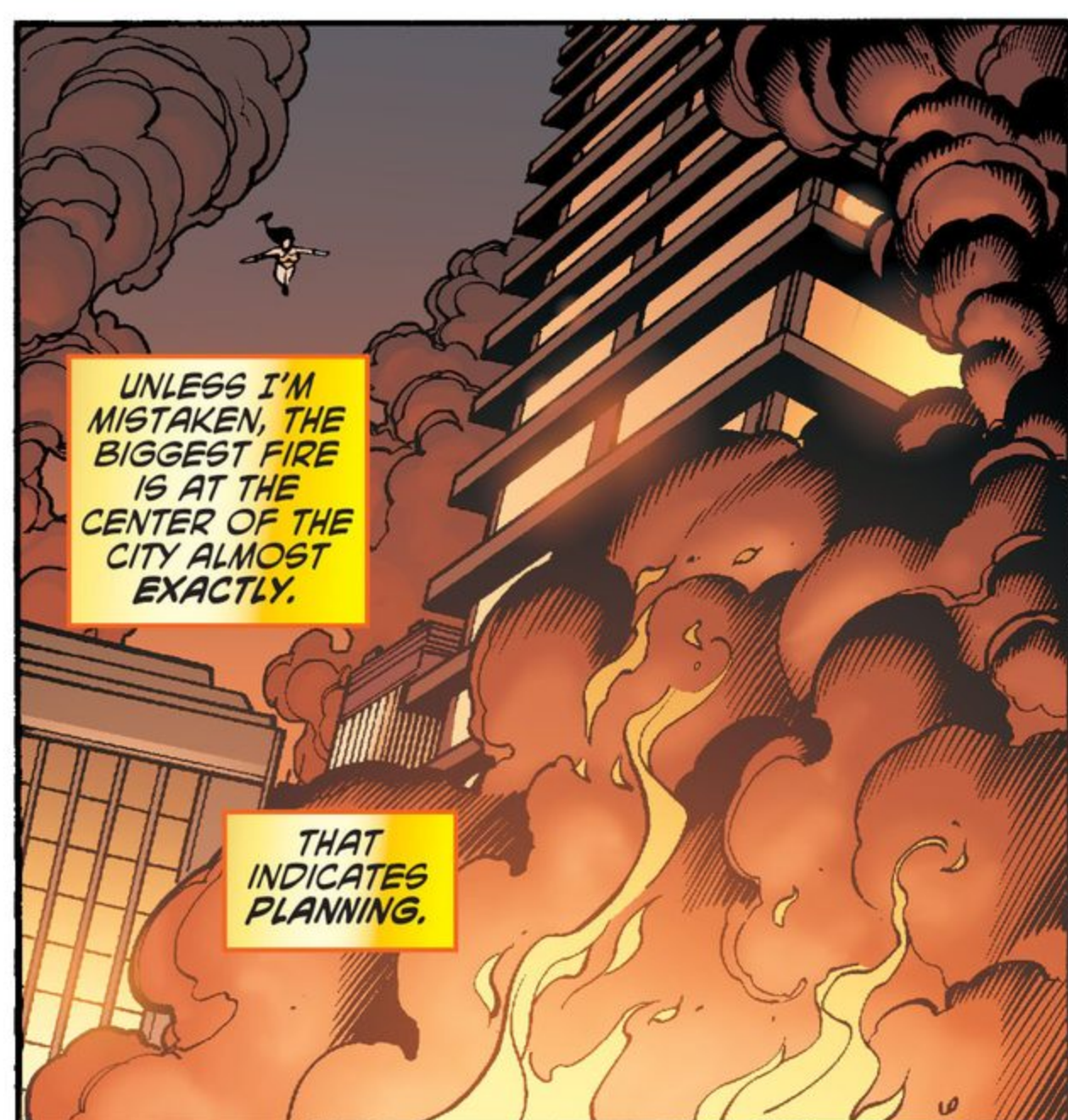
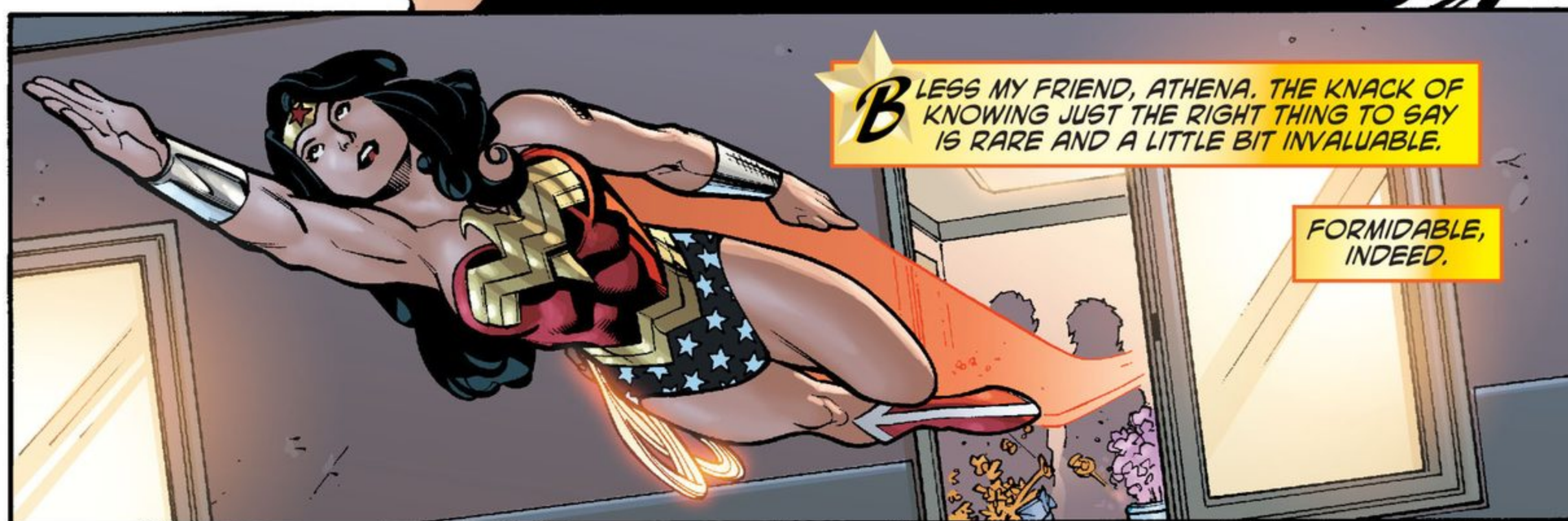
AND I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE
YOU LOOKING AT ME WITH
GUILTY, MOPEY EYES EVERY
TIME YOU LOOK AT ME.

YOU
DIDN'T DO
THIS.



GENOCIDE
DID.







POWER
GIRL.



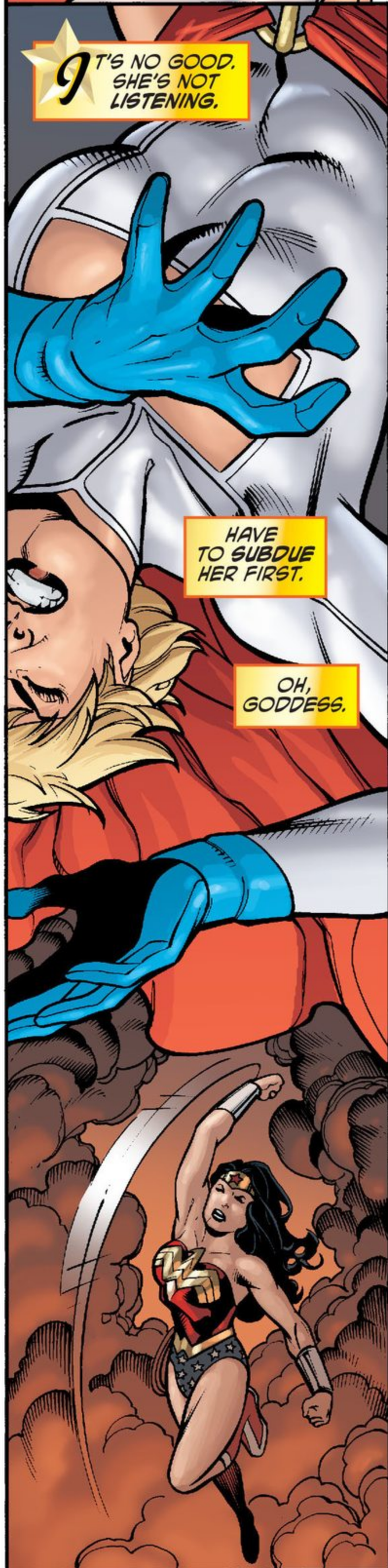


KAREN,
STOP. WHATEVER IS
HAPPENING--

UNNNGGH!

THEY SAID
YOU'D LIE.

YOU ALWAYS
WERE GOOD WITH
SPEECHES.



IT'S NO GOOD.
SHE'S NOT
LISTENING.

HAVE
TO SUBDUCE
HER FIRST.

OH,
GODDESS.



WHY DID IT HAVE
TO BE HER?



NEVER
THOUGHT YOU'D
SINK THIS LOW,
AMAZON.

I'M
TAKING YOU
DOWN.



I SEE.
FINE.

YOU'RE
STRONG,
KAREN.
AND
FAST.



BUT I'M
SOMETHING
ELSE ENTIRELY,
POWER GIRL.

ALL
RIGHT. SO
BE IT.

I AM
WONDER
WOMAN.

AND
YOU'VE
MANAGED
TO MAKE ME
SLIGHTLY
PEEVED.

NEXT: THROWDOWN



41
APR '10

**GAIL
SIMONE
AARON
LOPRESTI
MATT
RYAN**

Wonder Woman





THALARION.

IN THE SHORT TIME SINCE
MY REBIRTH I HAVE NOT
SPENT A SINGLE SLUMBER
ON THIS ISLAND.

MY KINGDOM.
MY ISLAND.

MY CITY OF
CRYSTAL.

JASON AND
HIS CREW
WERE MEN
OF ACTION IN
THEIR PREVIOUS
LIVES. THEY
LOOK TO ME
FOR ANSWERS.

AND WISDOM,
NEVER MY STRONG
SUIT AT THE BEST
OF TIMES.

AND I AM LONELY. THEY
DO NOT UNDERSTAND
ME, AND I DO NOT
UNDERSTAND THE WORLD
BEYOND THESE SHORES.

BUT THE MISSION
THAT ZEUS GAVE
ME, THE NAME HE
CALLED ME BY.

WARKILLER.

THAT IS A
MISSION I STILL
BELIEVE IN.

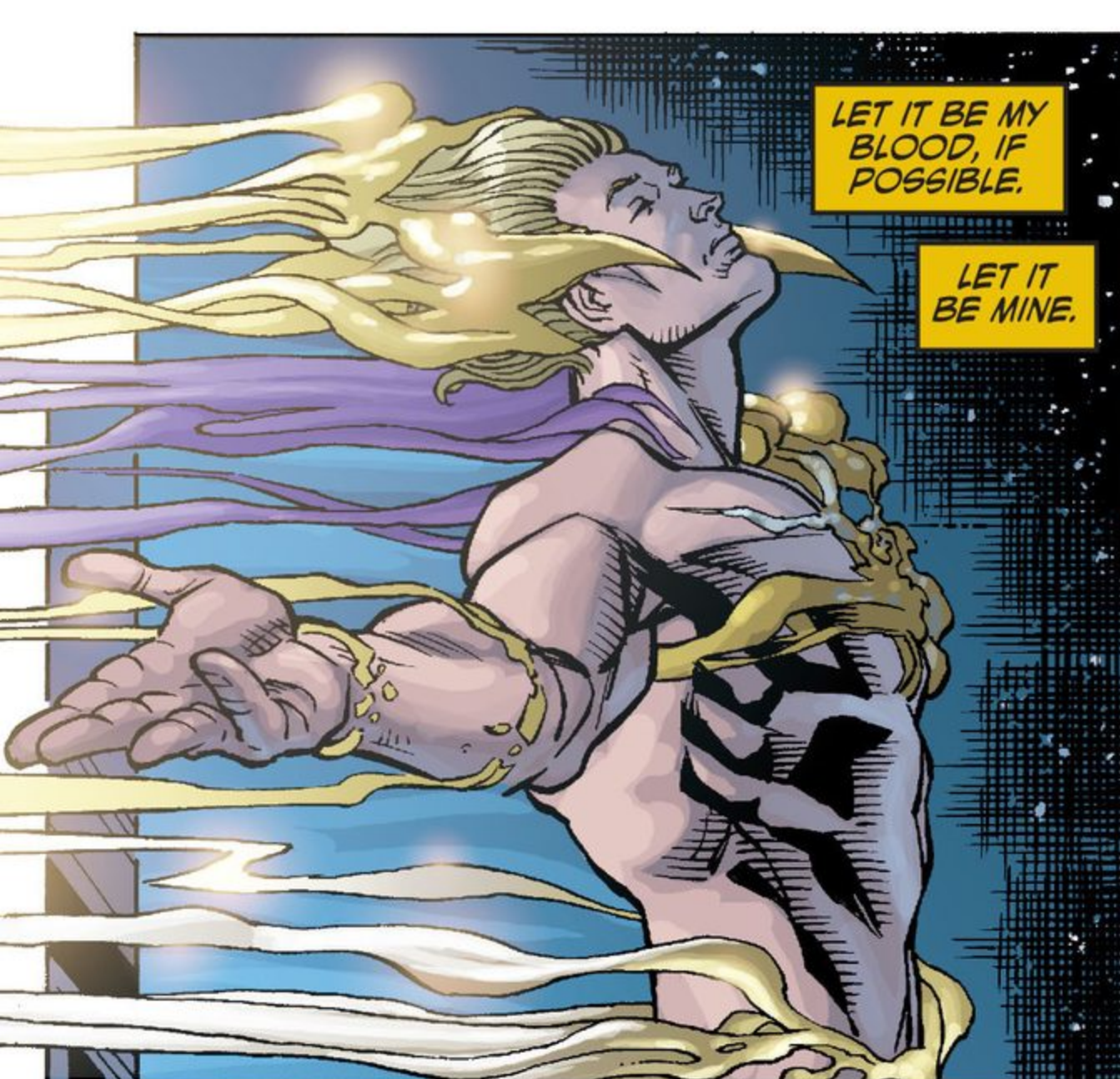
MYZIA.
COME.

THERE IS
MUCH BLOOD
ON MY HANDS.



IF I MUST SPILL
A LITTLE BIT MORE
TO SHOW THESE
PEOPLE THE FUTILITY
OF WAR--

--SO
BE IT.

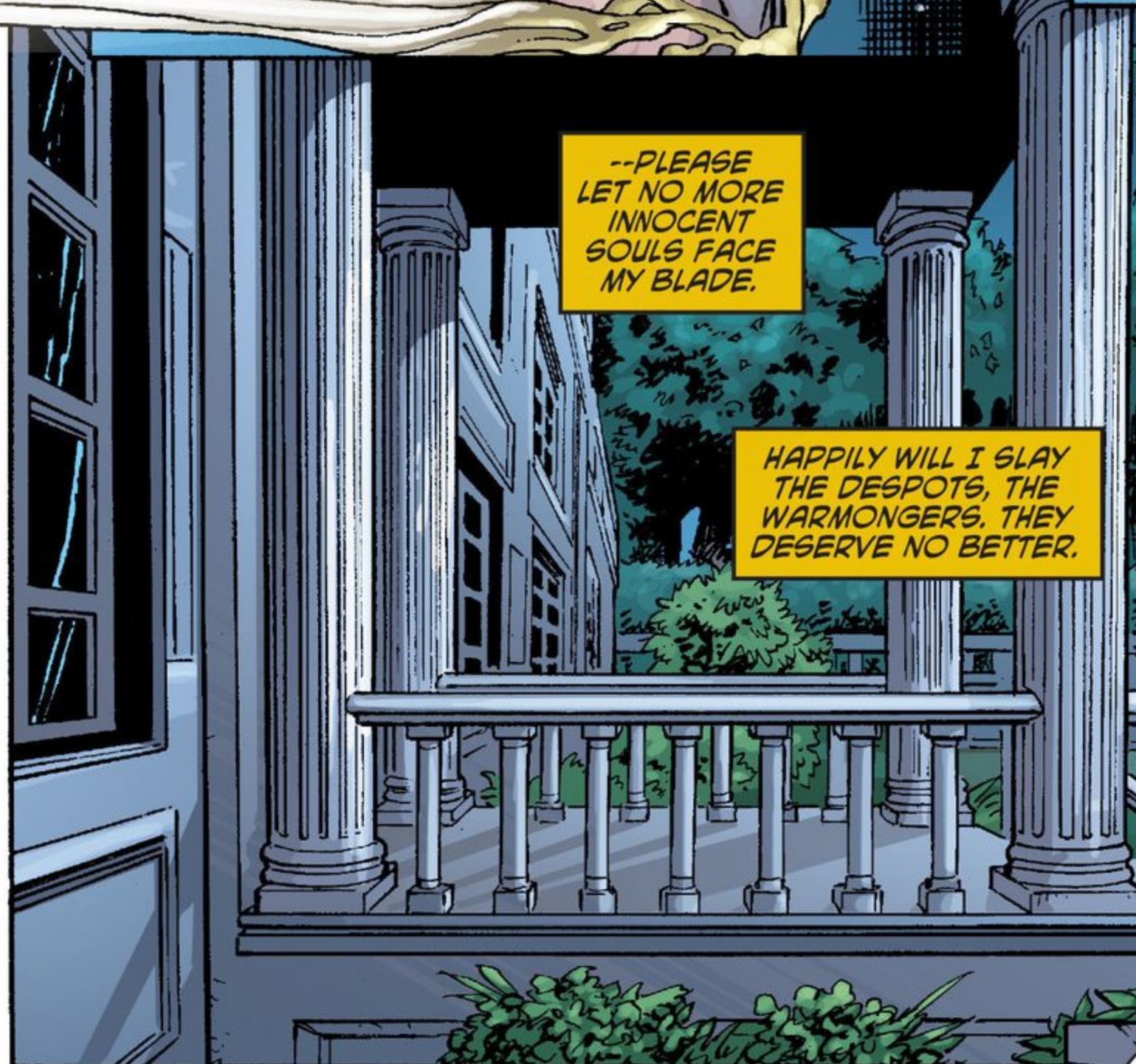


LET IT BE MY BLOOD, IF POSSIBLE.

LET IT BE MINE.



BUT FAILING THAT--



--PLEASE LET NO MORE INNOCENT SOULS FACE MY BLADE.

HAPPILY WILL I SLAY THE DESPOTS, THE WARMONGERS. THEY DESERVE NO BETTER.



MR. ACHILLES.
MR. ACHILLES!



BUT I WANT MY NAME TO MEAN SOMETHING GOOD IN THIS WORLD.

AH. PRINCESS DIANA SAID, UH...

SHE MENTIONED YOUR, UM, TRANSPORTATION WHEN SHE CALLED ME, BUT TO ACTUALLY SEE IT...!

IS THIS THE DOMICILE SHE RECOMMENDED?

IT IS.



THIS ENTIRE ESTATE BELONGED TO A PRINT MOGUL...NICE GUY, TOTALLY PARANOID. CRAZY SECURITY MEASURES.

IT'S GOT STABLES, THREE POOLS, GUEST QUARTERS. IT'S GOT EVERYTHING.

TAKE A LOOK BACK HERE.

THEY CALL THIS THE GROTTO... IT'S A GREEN-FRIENDLY, CARBON-NEUTRAL AQUA-THERAPY AND AMUSEMENT AREA, COMPLETE WITH FOUR HOT SAUNAS AND A ZERO IMMERSION POOL. ONE OF THE GREAT THINGS IS--

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING YOU'RE SAYING.

IT'S ACCEPTABLE.

I WILL BE PAYING IN BUCKETS OF GOLD.

BUCKETS OF, UH... DID YOU JUST SAY...

YOU SEEM FAMILIAR TO ME. DO I KNOW YOU SOMEHOW?

WHAT IS YOUR NAME, LAND-SELLER?

WHY, IT'S CLEESE.

PATRICK CLEESE.

PATROCLUS?

CLOSE ENOUGH, YOUR LORDSHIP.

IT CAN'T BE. IT CAN'T.

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

ARE YOU OKAY?

... AND DIANA CHOSE YOU, SPECIFICALLY, TO MEET ME HERE?

SHE DID, YES. DON'T KNOW WHY, EXACTLY...

WHEREVER YOU ARE, DIANA, MY PRINCESS, MY FRIEND...

I THANK YOU.

MISPLACED, I MIGHT BE. BUT ALONE?

PERHAPS NOT.

A MURDER OF CROWS PART TWO:

throwdown

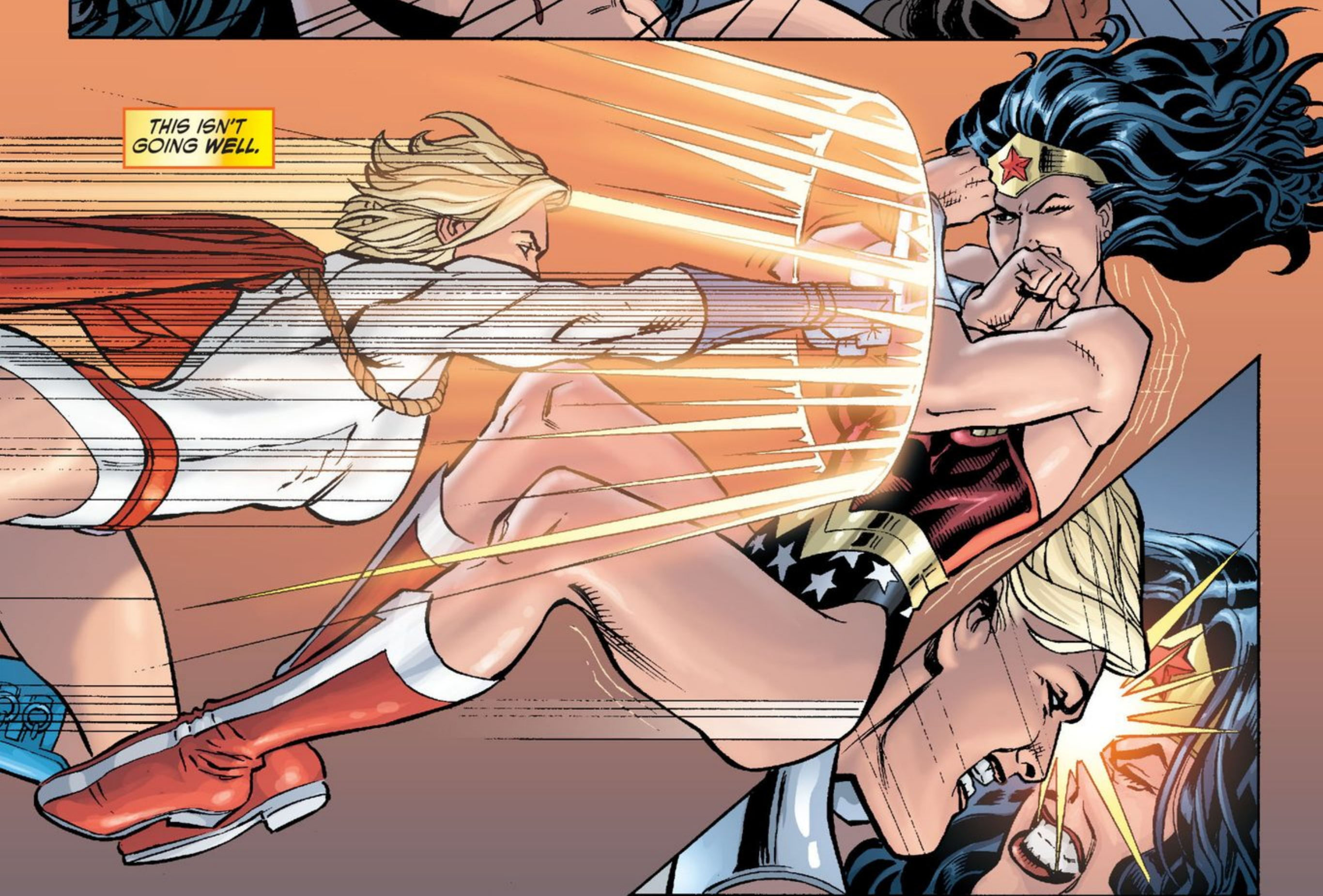
ALL THINGS
CONSIDERED...

...I'D RATHER
BE BACK ON
THEMYSCIRA.

GAIL SIMONE • writer
CHRIS BATISTA & FERNANDO DAGNINO • pencillers
DOUG HAZLEWOOD & RAUL FERNANDEZ • inkers

BRAD ANDERSON • colorist
TRAVIS LANHAM • letterer
SEAN RYAN • associate editor
BRIAN CUNNINGHAM • editor

WONDER WOMAN created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON





SHOCKING.
WHAT SORT OF
"HEROES" FIGHT LIKE
THOUGHTLESS BADGERS
IN THE SKY FOR ALL
TO SEE?

MOST
UNLADYLIKE.

AND THEIR
OUTFITS! WHY,
I BELIEVE I MIGHT
HAVE SEEN SOMETHING
MOST UNSUITABLE
FOR A CHILD MY
AGE!

TWO
SOMETHINGS,
EVEN!



WELL,
ALL I CAN SAY
IS THAT I CAN ASSURE
YOU I WILL BE *MOST*
CONDEMNATORY WHEN I
WRITE OF THIS ON
MY BLOG.

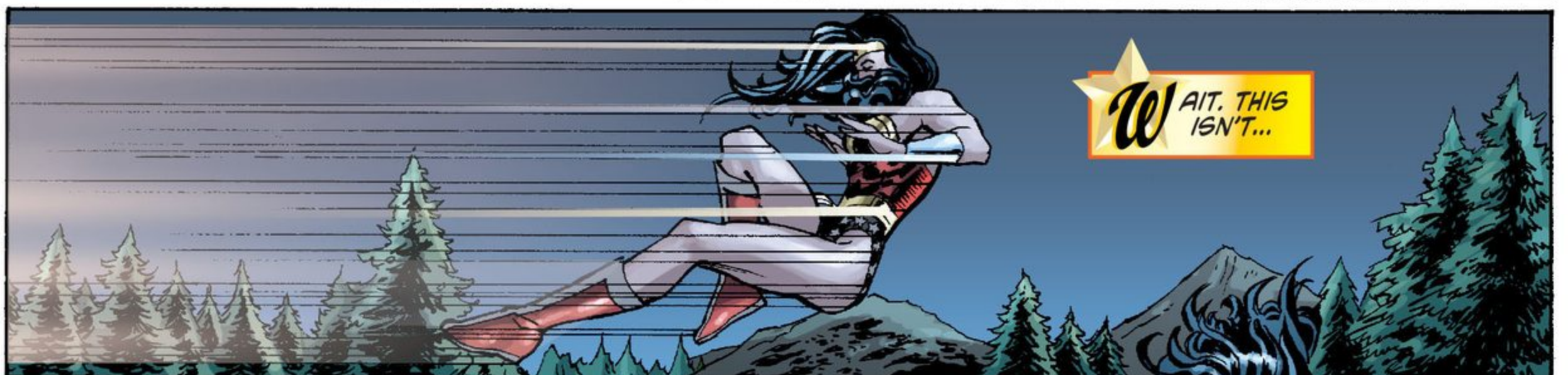
IT'S THE
ONLY SANE
RESPONSE,
BROTHER
GOAT.



COME, BROTHERS. WE
MUST CONTINUE TO
SPREAD OUR MESSAGE
OF PEACE AND
LOVE.

BROTHER,
DO YOU HAVE THE
WHITE SUPREMACIST
LITERATURE TO
THROW FROM THE
ROOFTOPS?

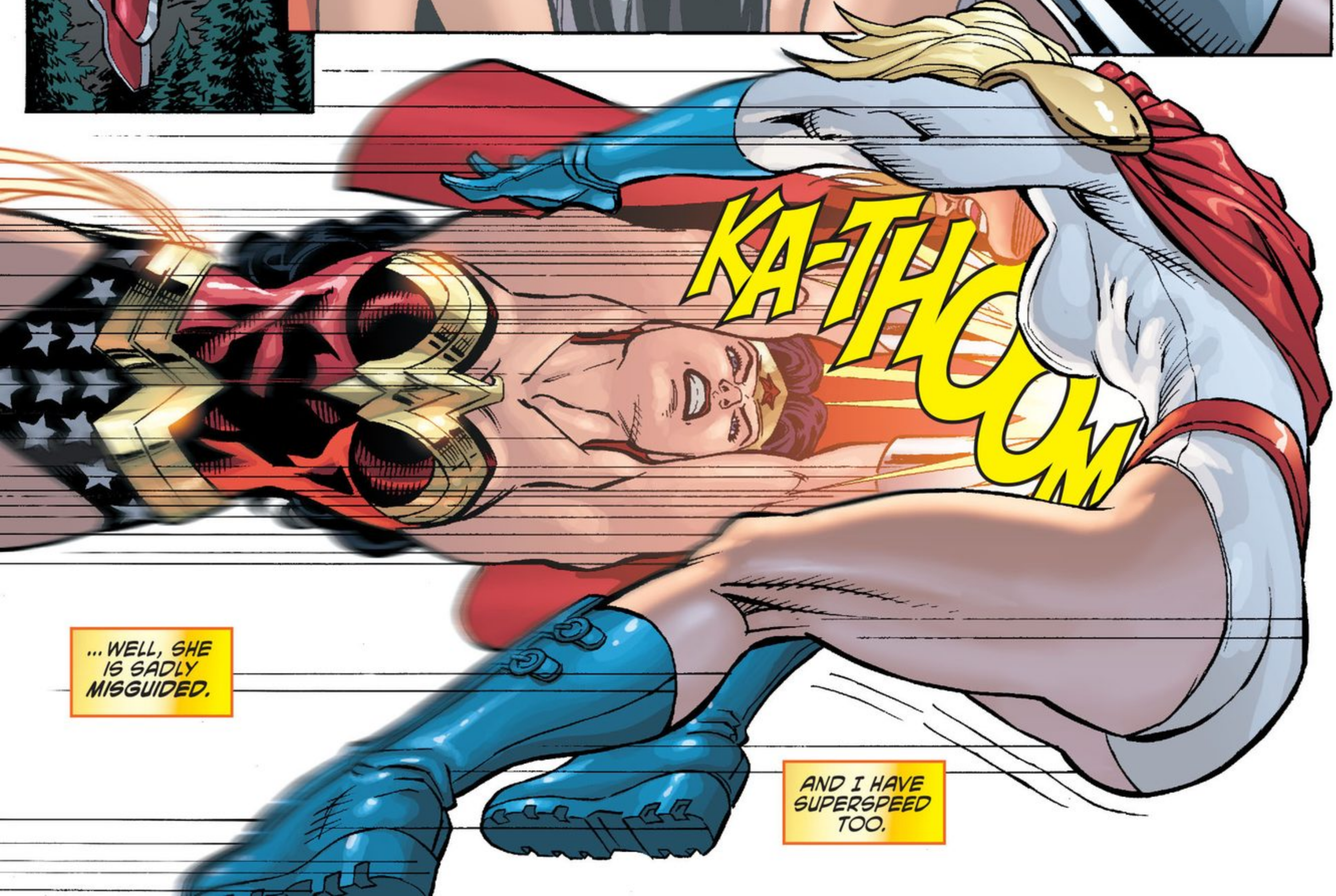
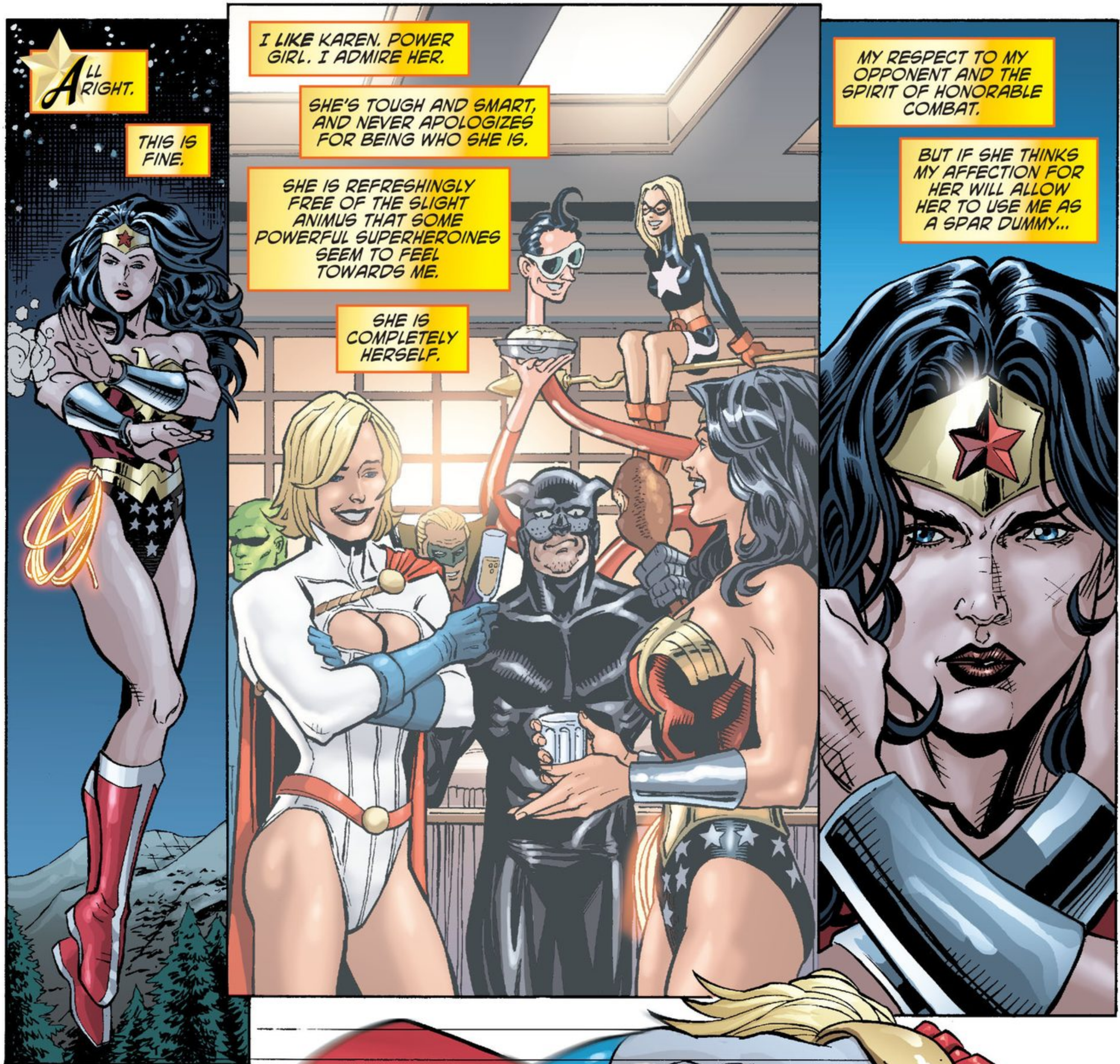
I MOST
ASSUREDLY DO, AND
APPALLING STUFF IT IS,
BROTHER ADDER!



*W*AIT. THIS
ISN'T...



DID SHE JUST
PUNCH ME INTO
CANADA?





OKAY.

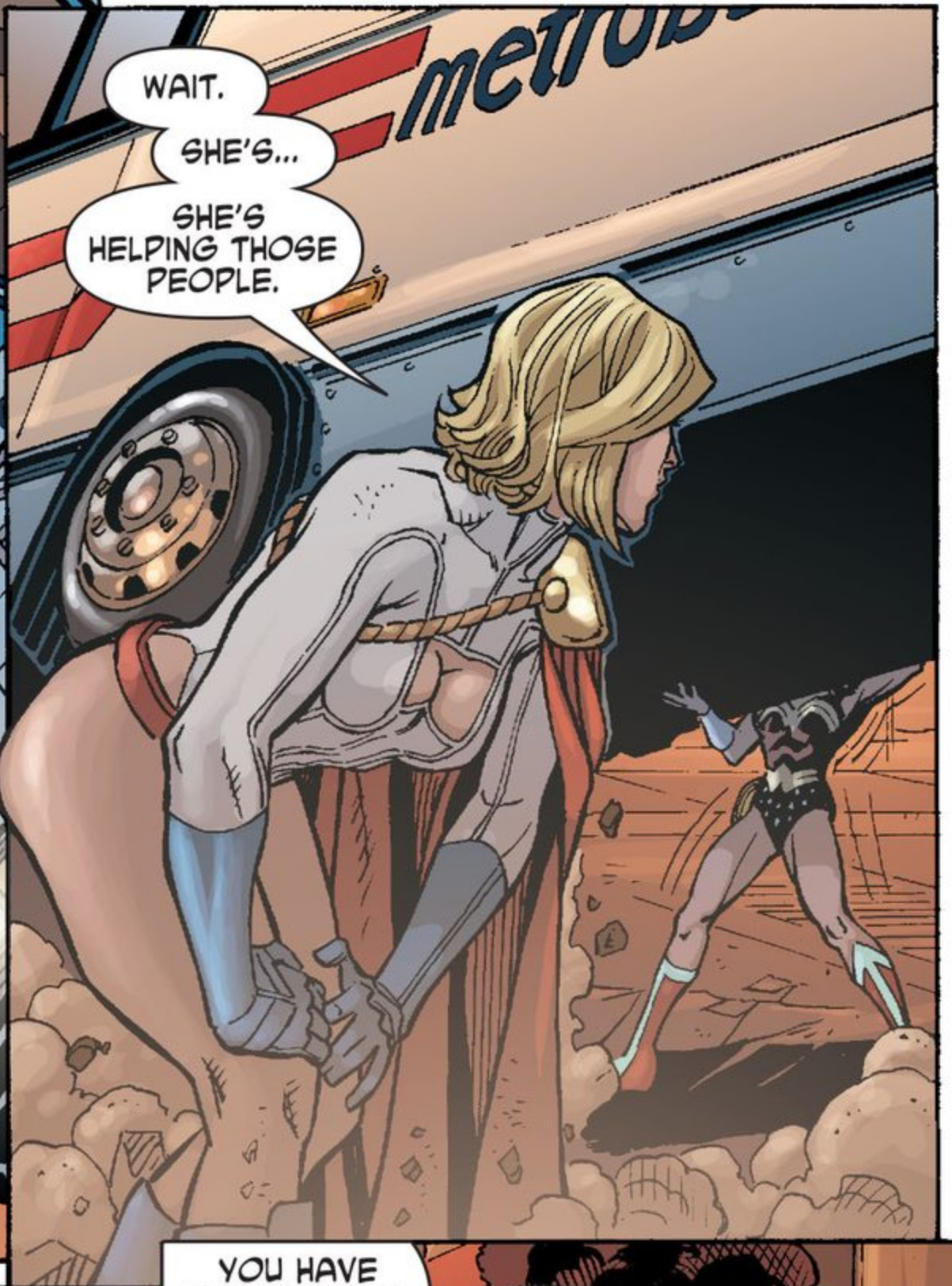
THE MONSTER CAN HIT.

I CAN RESPECT THAT.



MAYBE IT'S TIME SHE FOUND OUT WHAT I CAN DO WHEN I'M WELL AND TRULY TICKED OFF.

BRACE YOURSELVES!



WAIT.
SHE'S...
SHE'S HELPING THOSE PEOPLE.



HANG ON. DIANA. DIANA IS... SHE'S FREAKING DIANA, RIGHT?

AM I...



AM I BEING CHUMPED?

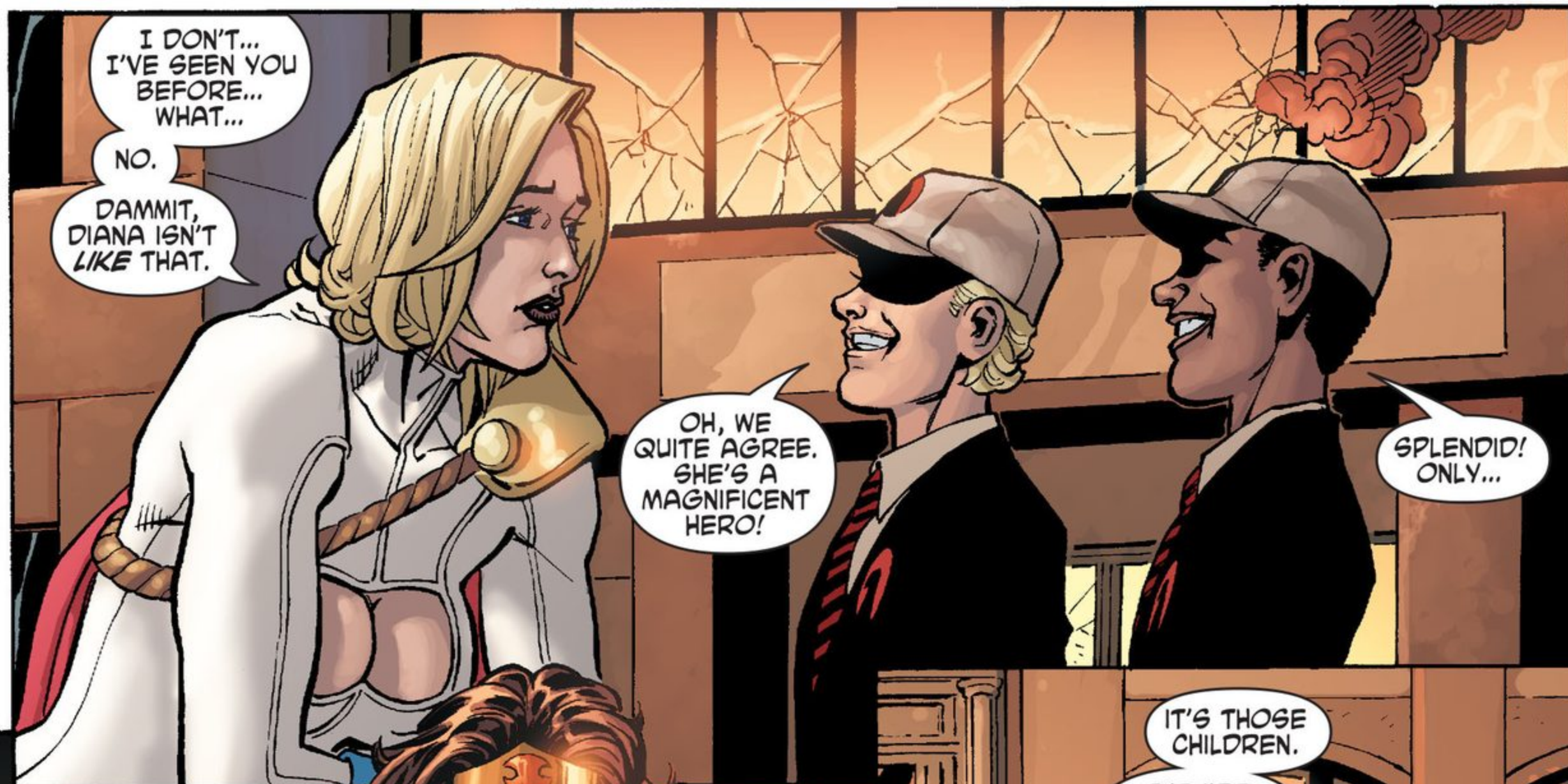


YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY, YOU KNOW.

JUST LOOK AT HER.

WHAT AN ATTENTION HOG THE PRINCESS IS!

SHAMEFUL, THAT'S WHAT IT IS. IT'S A SCANDAL, FOR CERTAIN!



I DON'T...
I'VE SEEN YOU
BEFORE...
WHAT...

NO.

DAMMIT,
DIANA ISN'T
LIKE THAT.

OH, WE
QUITE AGREE.
SHE'S A
MAGNIFICENT
HERO!

SPLENDID!
ONLY...



...I'M NOT
ENTIRELY
CERTAIN THAT
THAT ACTUALLY IS
WONDER WOMAN,
MISS GIRL.

POWER
GIRL.
KAREN.



IT'S THOSE
CHILDREN.

THEY'RE
BEHIND THIS,
SOMEHOW. CAN
YOU NOT SEE
THAT?

STAY
BEHIND ME,
KIDS.



YOU CAN'T
HAVE THEM,
MONSTER.

WHATEVER
YOU ARE, YOU
CAN'T HAVE
'EM!

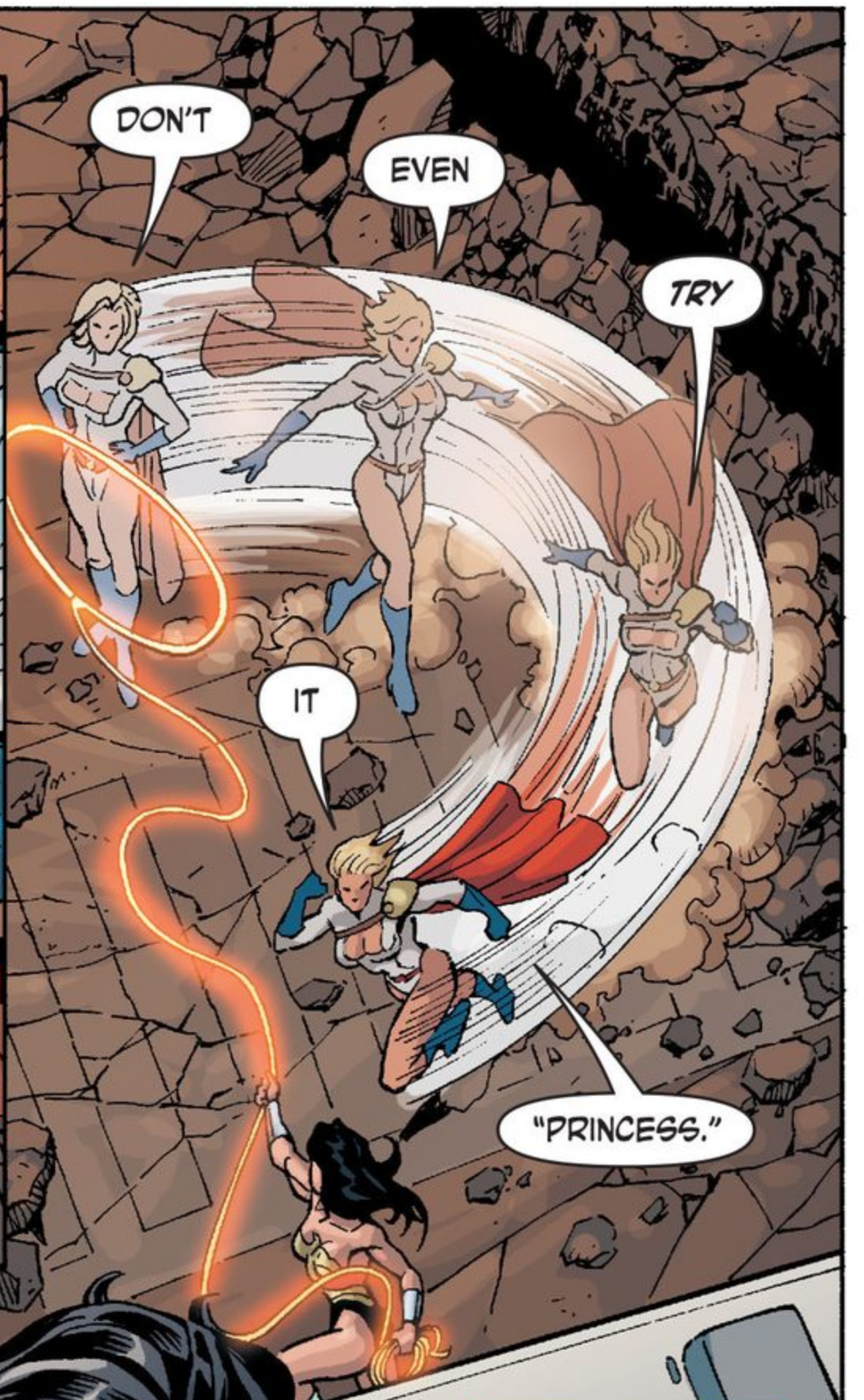


I DON'T LIKE DOING THIS.



I MAY NOT ACTUALLY BUY ALL OF HER "PEACE AND LOVE" SPEECHIFYING.

I MAY NOT ACTUALLY GET HOW PEOPLE'S EYES LIGHT UP WHEN HER NAME IS MENTIONED.



DON'T

EVEN

TRY

IT

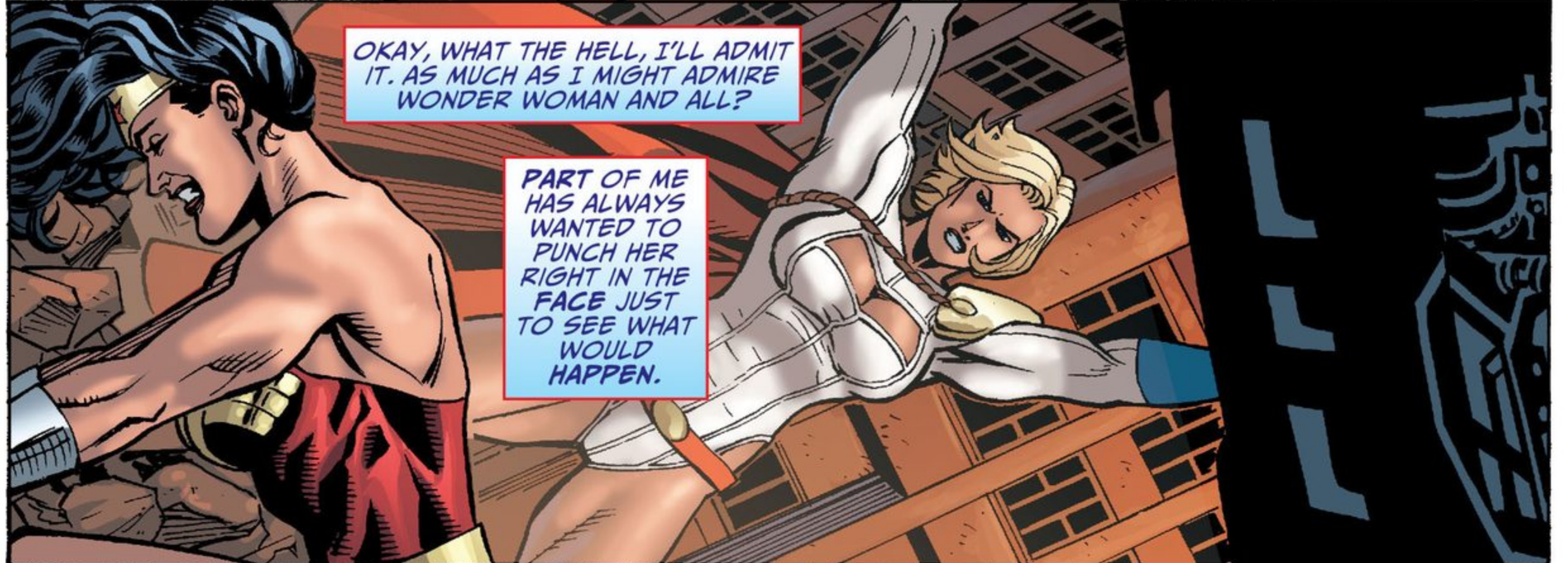
"PRINCESS."



AND TO BE HONEST, I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT SHE'S MORE THAN A LITTLE PRIDEFUL.

LIKE SHE WAS BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE. SMARTER.

I CAN RESPECT THAT, TOO.



OKAY, WHAT THE HELL, I'LL ADMIT IT. AS MUCH AS I MIGHT ADMIRE WONDER WOMAN AND ALL?

PART OF ME HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO PUNCH HER RIGHT IN THE FACE JUST TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.



SO WHATEVER
IT IS THAT'S
POSSESSED
YOU, DIANA...

...I PROMISE
TO POUND THAT
THING STRAIGHT
TO DEATH.



SHE'S
STRONGER
THAN WE
THOUGHT.
SMARTER,
TOO.

ADMIRE HER LATER,
BROTHER GOAT. THIS
ACCELERATES OUR
TIMETABLE.

WE
HAVE TO
HURRY.

IF WE
WANT HATE
TO BURN THIS
CITY, I
MEAN!



SHE CAUSED
ALL THIS, POWER
GIRL! KILL
HER!

KILL WONDER
WOMAN!

TSK. MOB
VIOLENCE.

THEY'LL
ALL REGRET
THIS IN THE
MORNING, I'M
SURE!



ALL RIGHT. MY
CITY IS BURNING,
AND TIME IS
RUNNING OUT.

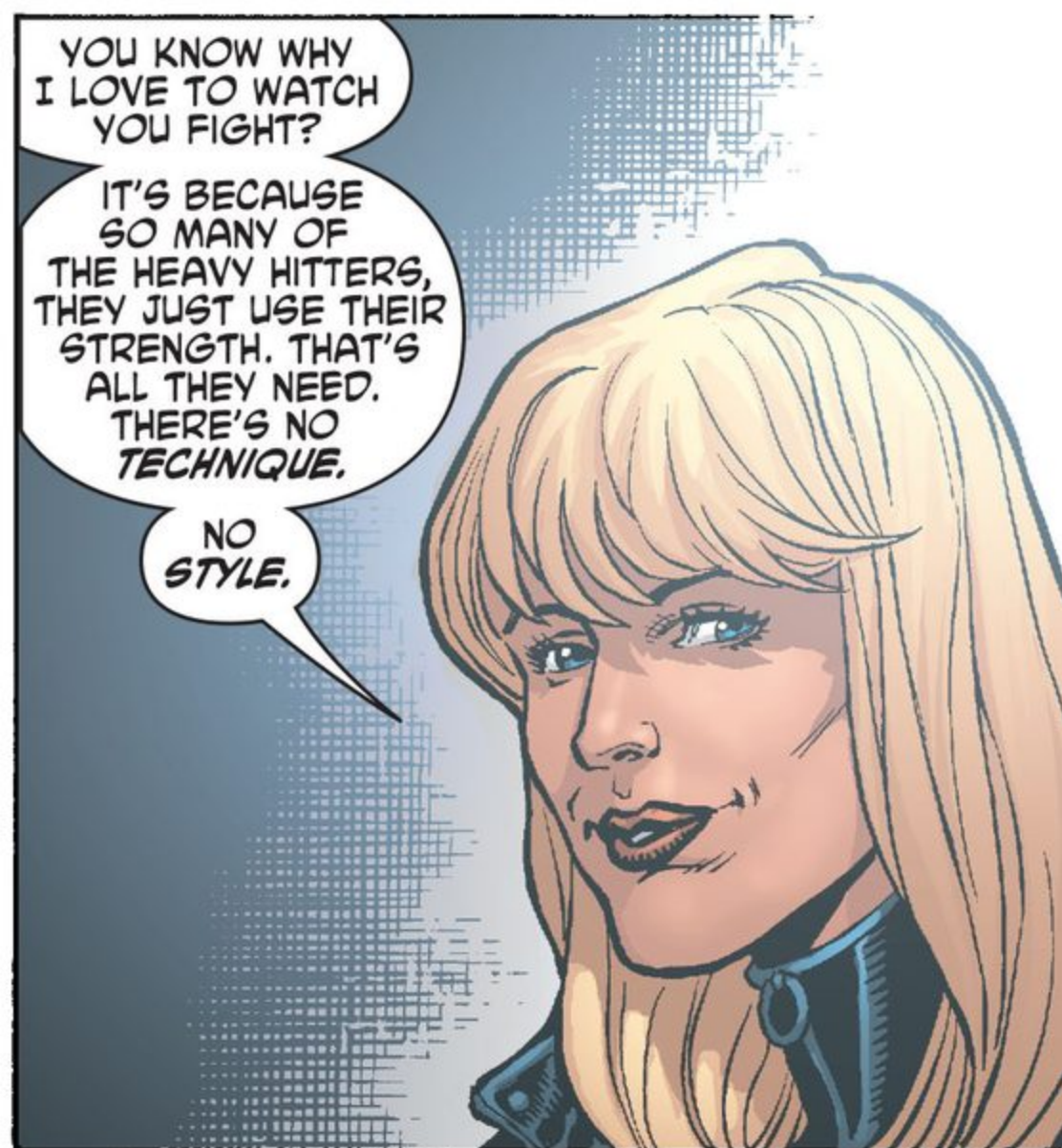
SHE'S AT LEAST
AS STRONG AND
AS FAST AS I AM.

ACKNOWLEDGED.

ENOUGH.

YOU WERE
WARNED.

NOW IT'S TIME
FOR ME TO
REMEMBER WHAT
THE BLACK
CANARY SAID.



YOU KNOW WHY
I LOVE TO WATCH
YOU FIGHT?

IT'S BECAUSE
SO MANY OF
THE HEAVY HITTERS,
THEY JUST USE THEIR
STRENGTH. THAT'S
ALL THEY NEED.
THERE'S NO
TECHNIQUE.

NO
STYLE.



NO MORE
WARNINGS.



LIKE
I NEED
ANY.

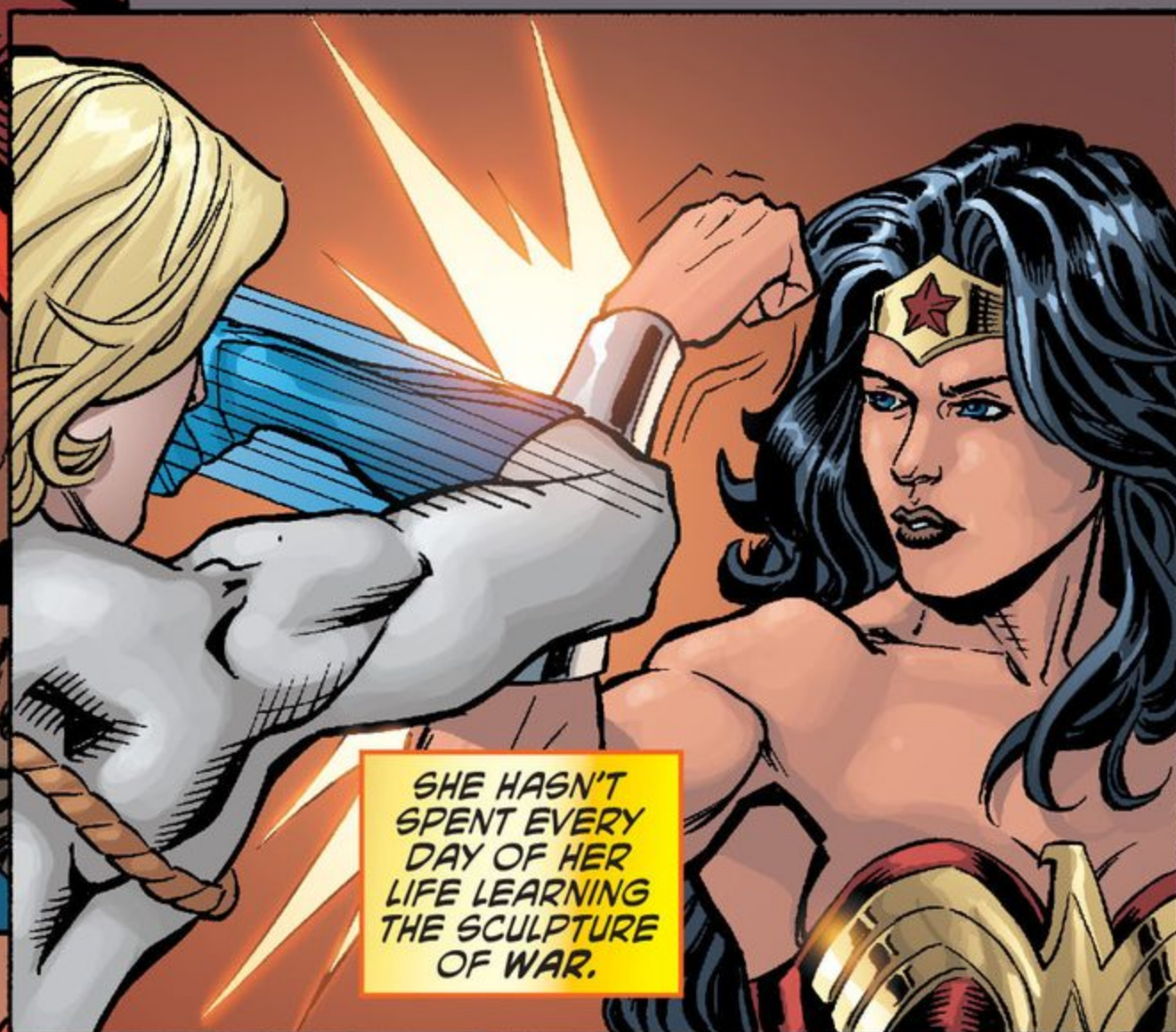


SHE'S GOOD.

IT'S NOT JUST BRUTE FORCE.



BUT SHE ISN'T AMAZON.

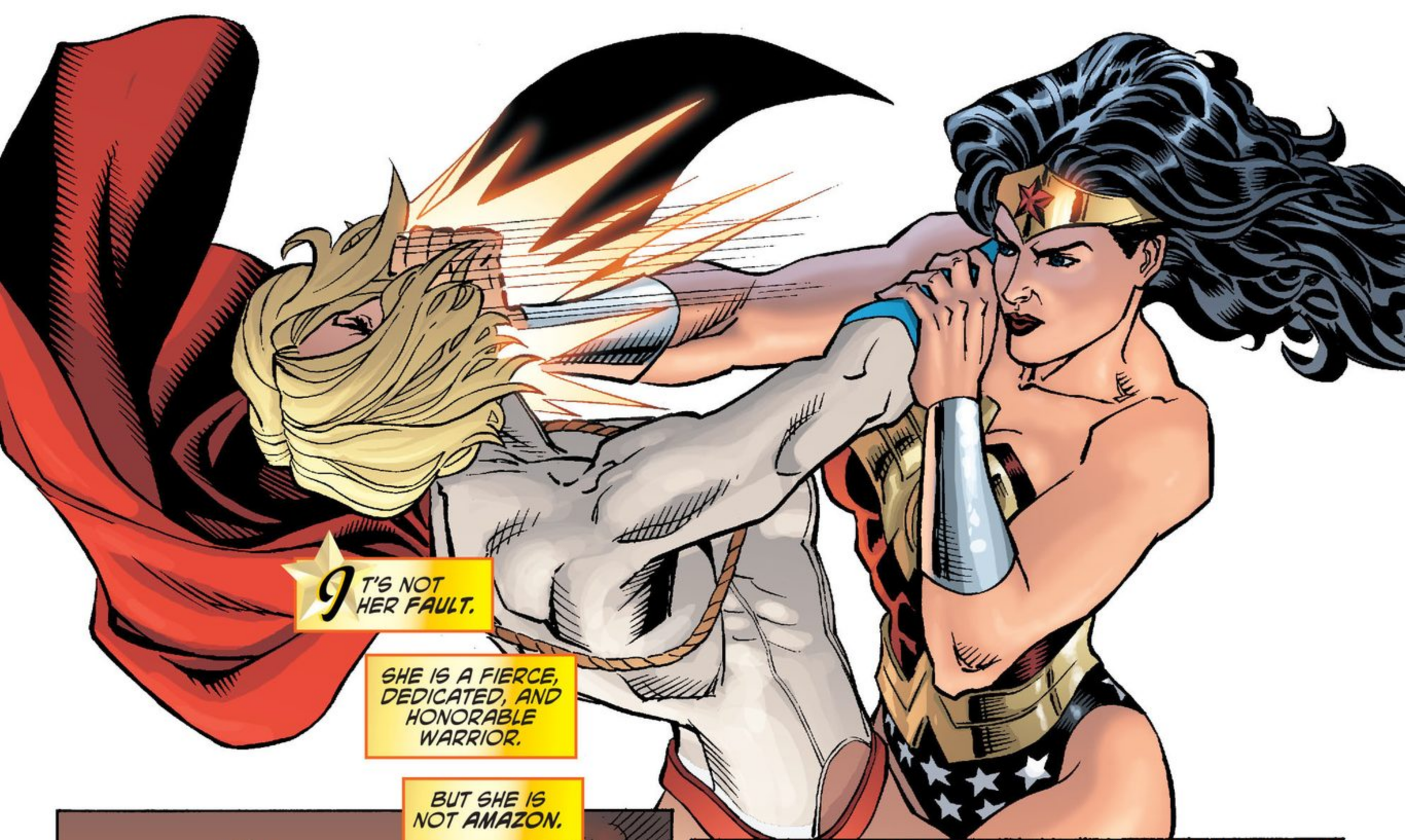


SHE HASN'T SPENT EVERY DAY OF HER LIFE LEARNING THE SCULPTURE OF WAR.



GAAAAAH!

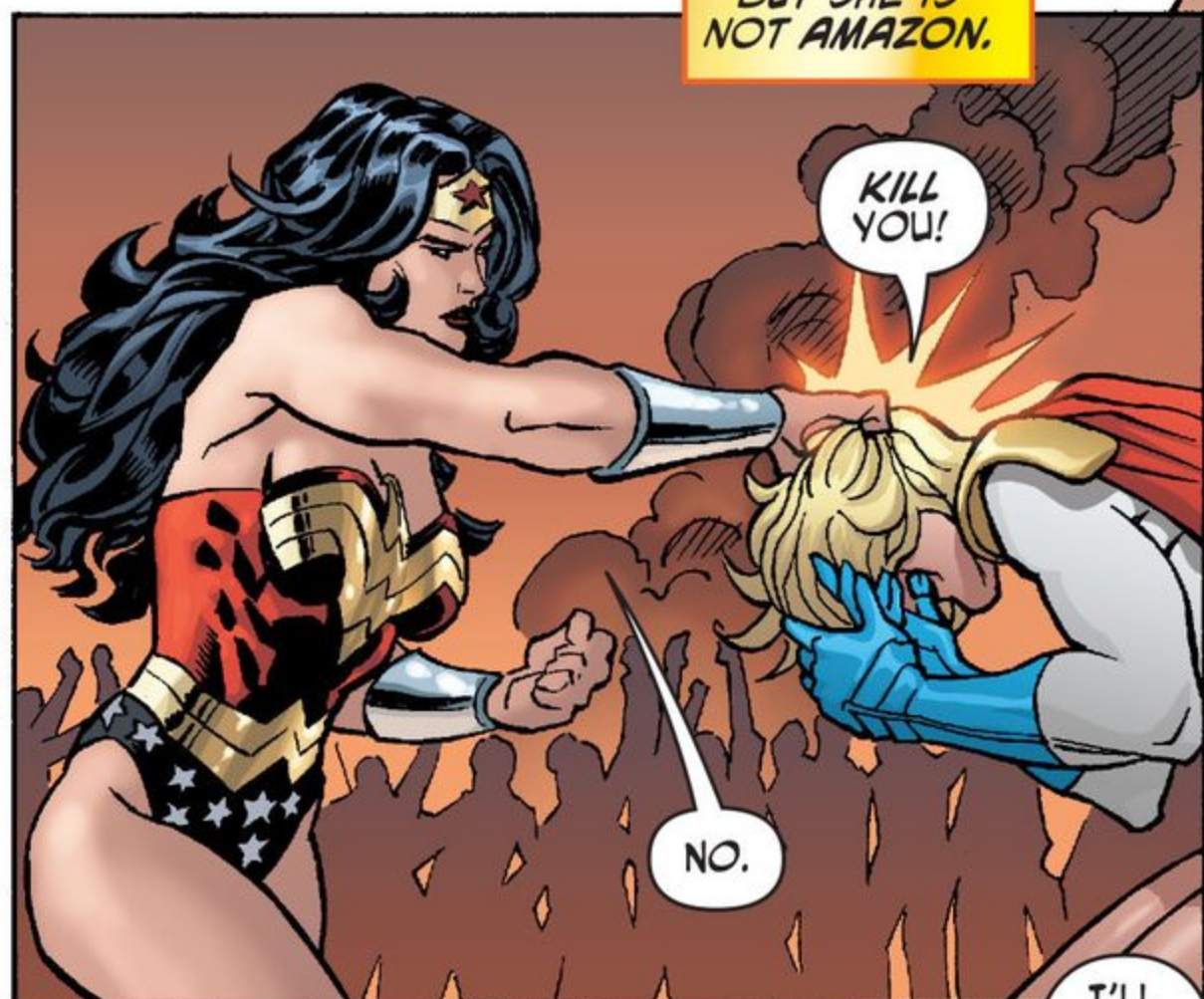
SHE WASN'T BAPTIZED IN HER SISTERS' BLOOD.



IT'S NOT
HER FAULT.

SHE IS A FIERCE,
DEDICATED, AND
HONORABLE
WARRIOR.

BUT SHE IS
NOT AMAZON.



KILL
YOU!

NO.

I'LL
RIP
YOUR
HEAD
OFF.



UHGHN...

YOU ARE
KAREN STARR,
POWER GIRL.

THAT'S
HOW WE'LL
BEAT THIS.

YOU ARE
ONE OF THE
STUBBORNEST,
MOST ARROGANT
WOMEN I
HAVE EVER
KNOWN.



NO.

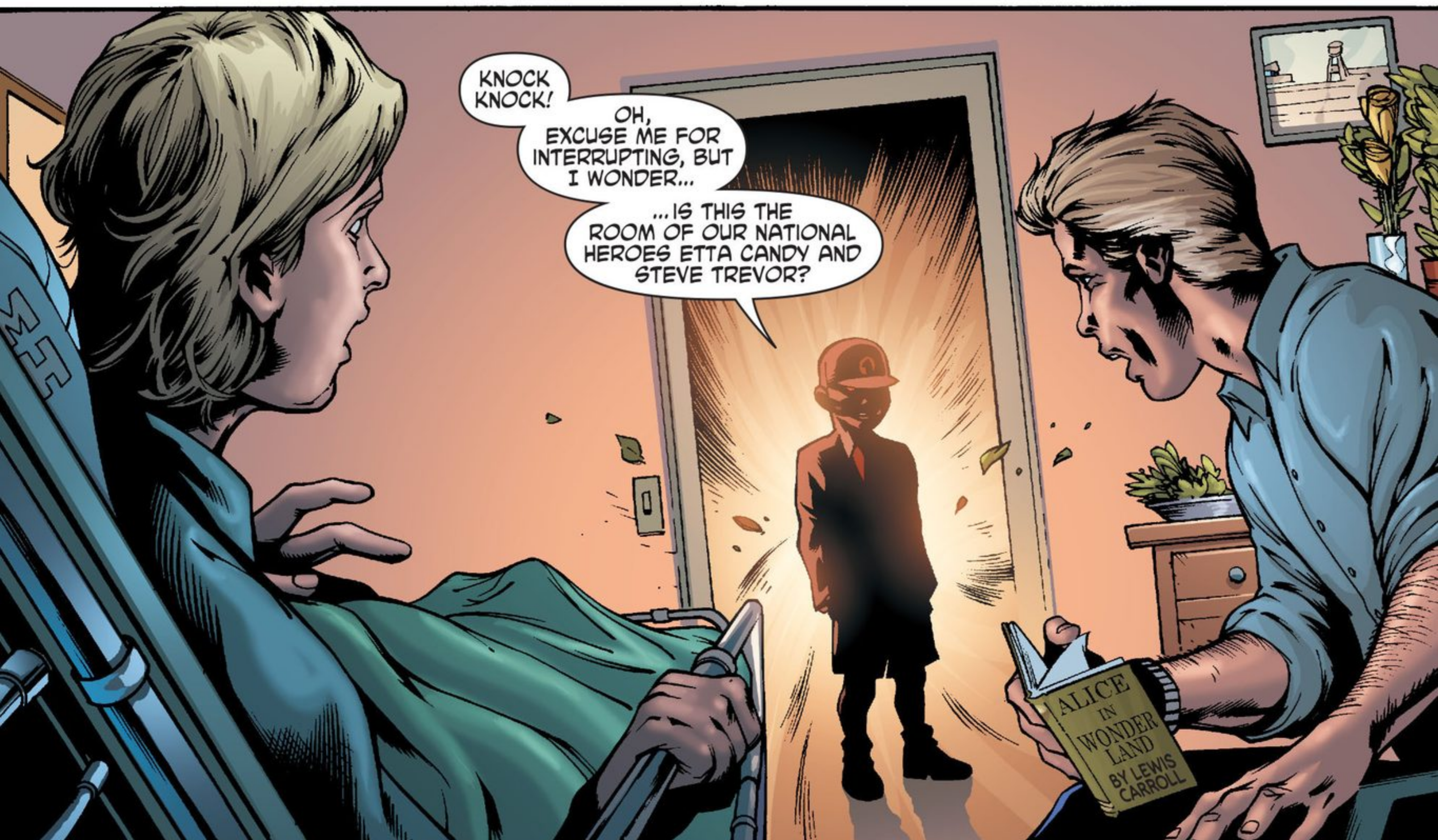
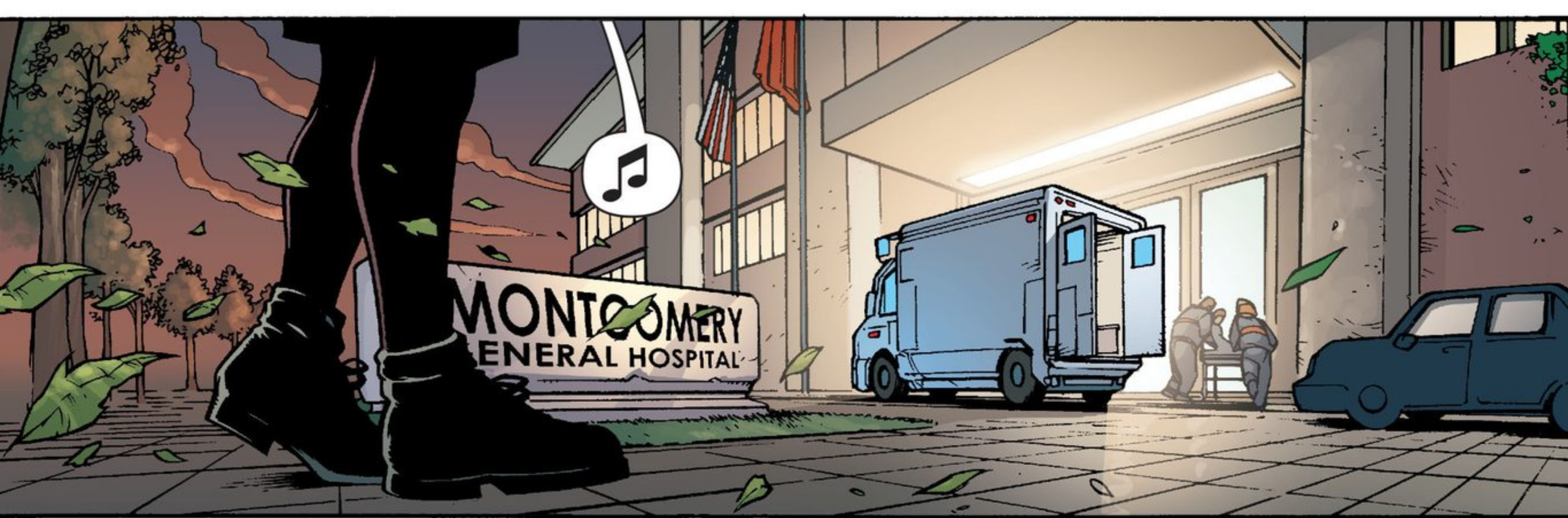
I SAY
AGAIN, YOU
ARE *POWER
GIRL*.

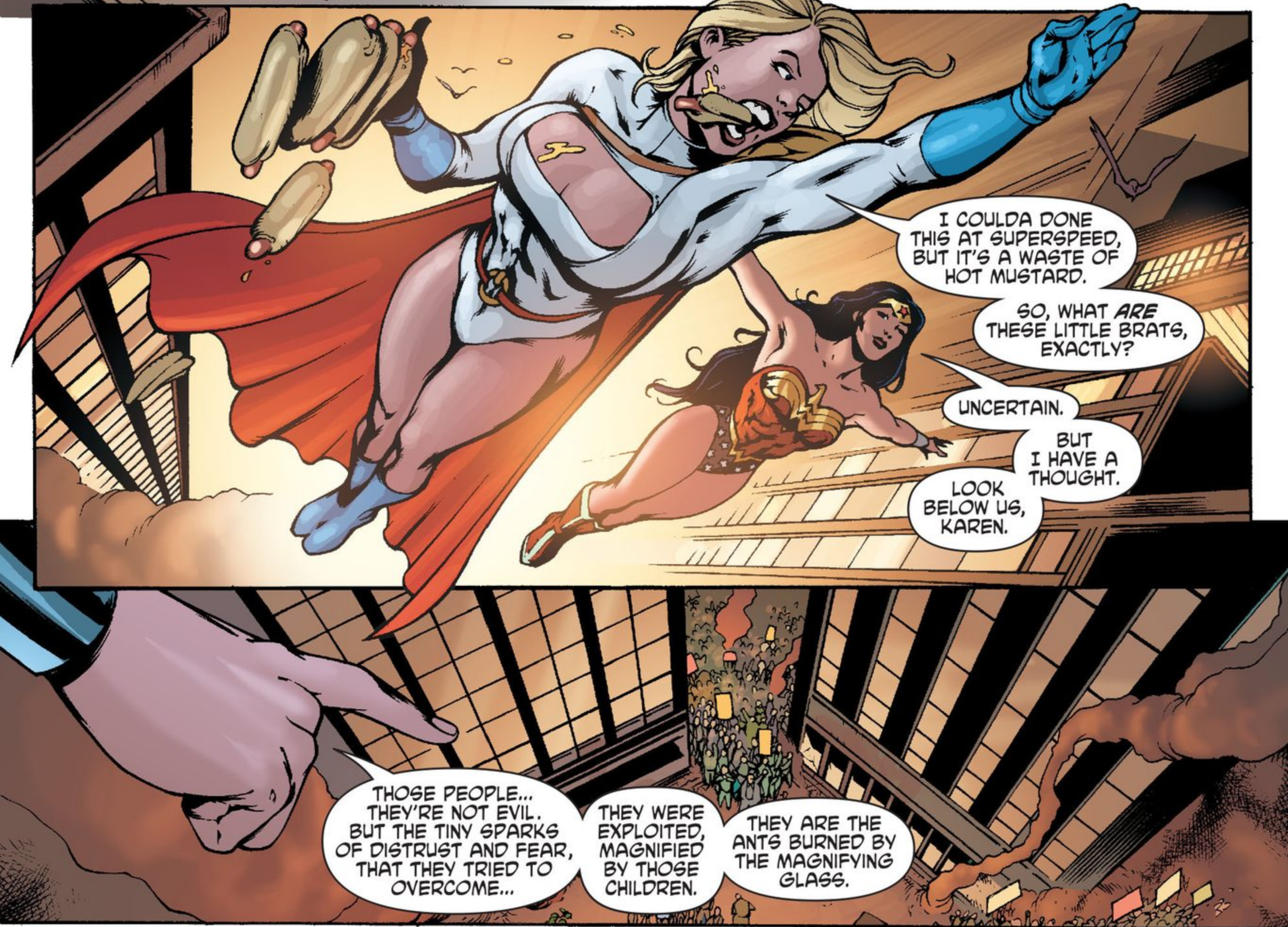
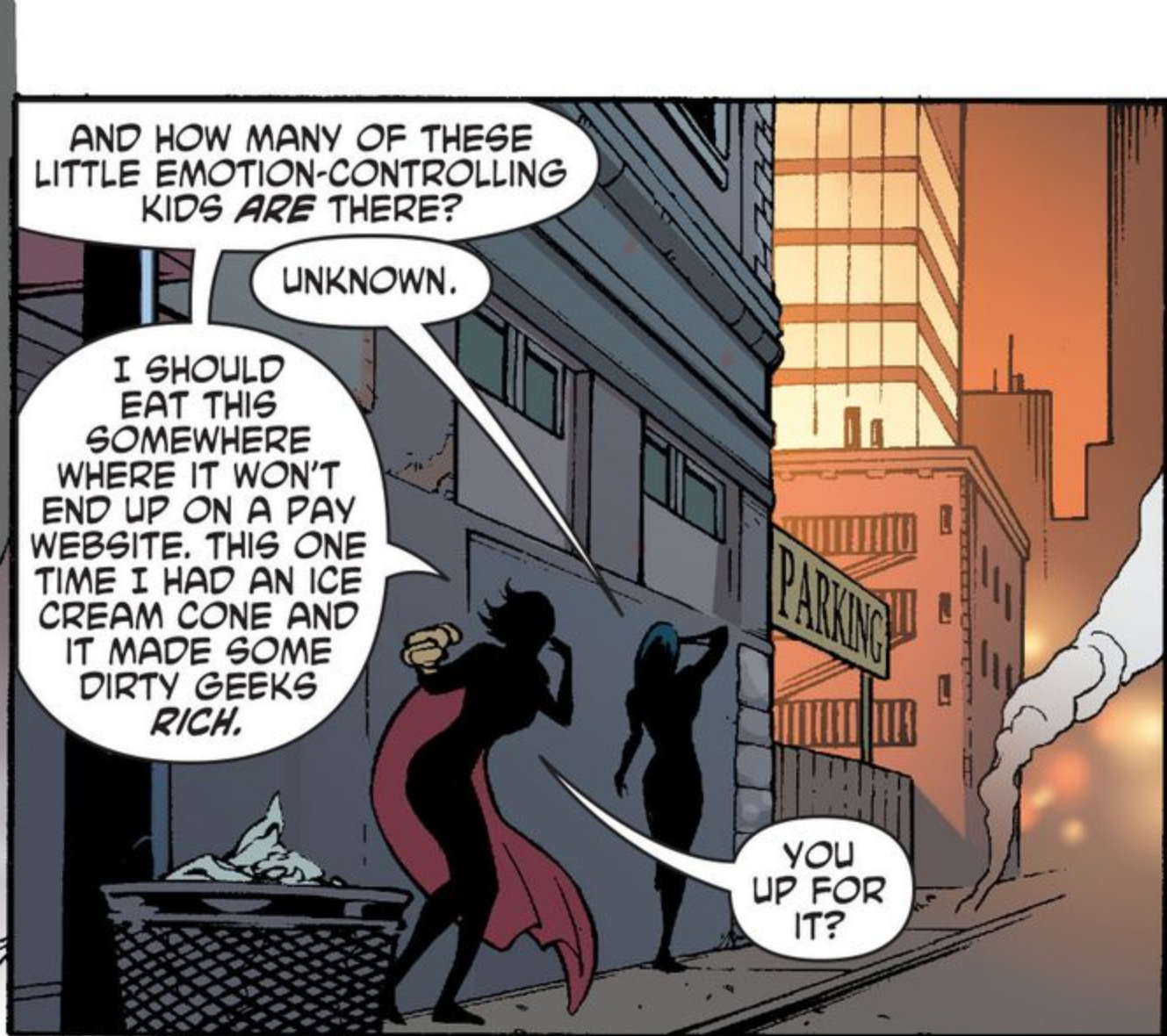
AND I HAVE
ONE QUESTION
FOR YOU, WHEN
HAVE YOU
EVER...

AND
I MEAN
EVER...



...DONE AS
YOU WERE
TOLD?









MY NAME IS *POWER GIRL*.

AND ANY ONE OF YOU LOSERS TAKES A STEP INSIDE THAT CIRCLE?

YOU HAFTA DEAL WITH *ME*.



ARE WE 100% IN *SYNC* ON THIS CONCEPT, DRONE-BABIES?



UM. OKAY.

THAT DIDN'T WORK!



UH. PRETEND I'M *DIANA*, THEN.

THINK OF THE *POWER* OF LOVE AND ALL THAT CRAP, OKAY?

HOPE AND BROTHERHOOD OR WHATEVER! NO? NO GO?

OH, *MAN*!



OH, THIS IS JUST AWFUL. WHAT A SAD STATEMENT ON THE WHOLE "MELTING POT" MYTH.

I PREDICT A DEATH TOLL IN THE *THOUSANDS*, BROTHERS.

I THINK NOT, CHILDREN OF *ARES*.



THAT'S
WHAT YOU ARE,
CORRECT?

THE
SPAWN OF
THE GOD
OF WAR.

I AM THE
MISTRESS
OF THE HUNT,
CHILDREN.

I KNOW
HIS FOOTPRINT.
I KNOW HIS
SPOOR.



IT'S
TOO LATE,
DIANA.

YOU KILLED OUR
FATHER!

NOW
WE'LL MAKE
THOSE YOU
PROTECT
KILL EACH
OTHER!

WON'T YOU
HELP THEM, DIANA?
WON'T YOU BATHE
IN THEIR BLOOD?



POOR
SOND OF
NOTHING.

THOSE WHO
LOVE ARE
BEST LIVE THE
SHORTEST
TIME.

YOUR
TRICKS WON'T
WORK ON ME, AS
I HAVE ARMORED
MYSELF WITH
THE TRUTH.



AND NOW,
I METE OUT A
PUNISHMENT
YOU WILL
REMEMBER.



OKAY.
OKAY,
LISTEN.

NO MORE
THREATS. NO
TRICKS.



YOU'RE ALONE.
YOU ALL FEEL LIKE
THE ONLY ONES
WHO FEEL LIKE
YOU DO.

YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
THE PEOPLE
AROUND
YOU.

AND YOU
GET MAD.



BUT... DAMMIT,
PEOPLE.

LOOK
AROUND
YOU.

LOOK AT THESE
PEOPLE YOU WANT
TO HURT. BECAUSE
YOU HURT.



BUT COME ON.
ARE THESE PEOPLE
REALLY YOUR
ENEMIES?

THEY'RE
YOUR NEIGHBORS,
GUYS.

THAT
MAY NOT
SOUND LIKE
MUCH, BUT
TAKE IT FROM
SOMEONE
WHO...

...WHO
NEVER
THOUGHT
SHE'D HAVE
NEIGHBORS
AGAIN, YOU
KNOW?



YOU CAN'T... YOU CAN'T
DO THIS. YOU CAN'T
DO THIS!

I CAN AND
WILL. WHO GOES
FIRST?



IS THIS
ACTUALLY
WORKING?

HOLY CRAP,
I THINK IT'S
WORKING.

I'M NOT
SAYING YOU
HAVE TO LOVE
EVERYONE.
THAT'S
NOT...

...THAT'S
NOT HOW
I LIVE.

BUT
DON'T BE
ALONE,
GUYS.

BE PART
OF SOMETHING
BIGGER. THAT'S
ALL.

THAT'S
ALL.

MAYBE
THERE IS
A LITTLE
DIANA IN ME
AFTER ALL!



THAT'S IT. STERLING.



DON'T THINK OF THIS AS A SAD DAY. ARE YOU NOT BOTH SOLDIERS?

THINK OF THE GLORY.

IT NEEDS TO BE DONE, STEVE. I LOVE YOU.



AS I SAY, SIMPLY STERLING!

INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOUR MIND-POISON, YOUNGLING.

IT DOESN'T SEEM TO WORK ON GORILLAS.



WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
IT WAS NO GRODD, THAT IS CERTAIN!

ETTA, SWEETIE...WE MAY WANT TO RECONSIDER OUR IDEA ABOUT ADOPTION.



I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I SAID, BUT--

--YOU SPOKE FROM YOUR DEEPEST HEART, KAREN. IT MOVED THEM.

THERE WILL BE A HEALING.
I'M PROUD OF YOU.



SHUCKS.
ME, TOO, A LITTLE, I GUESS.
SO, WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THOSE LITTLE MONSTERS?

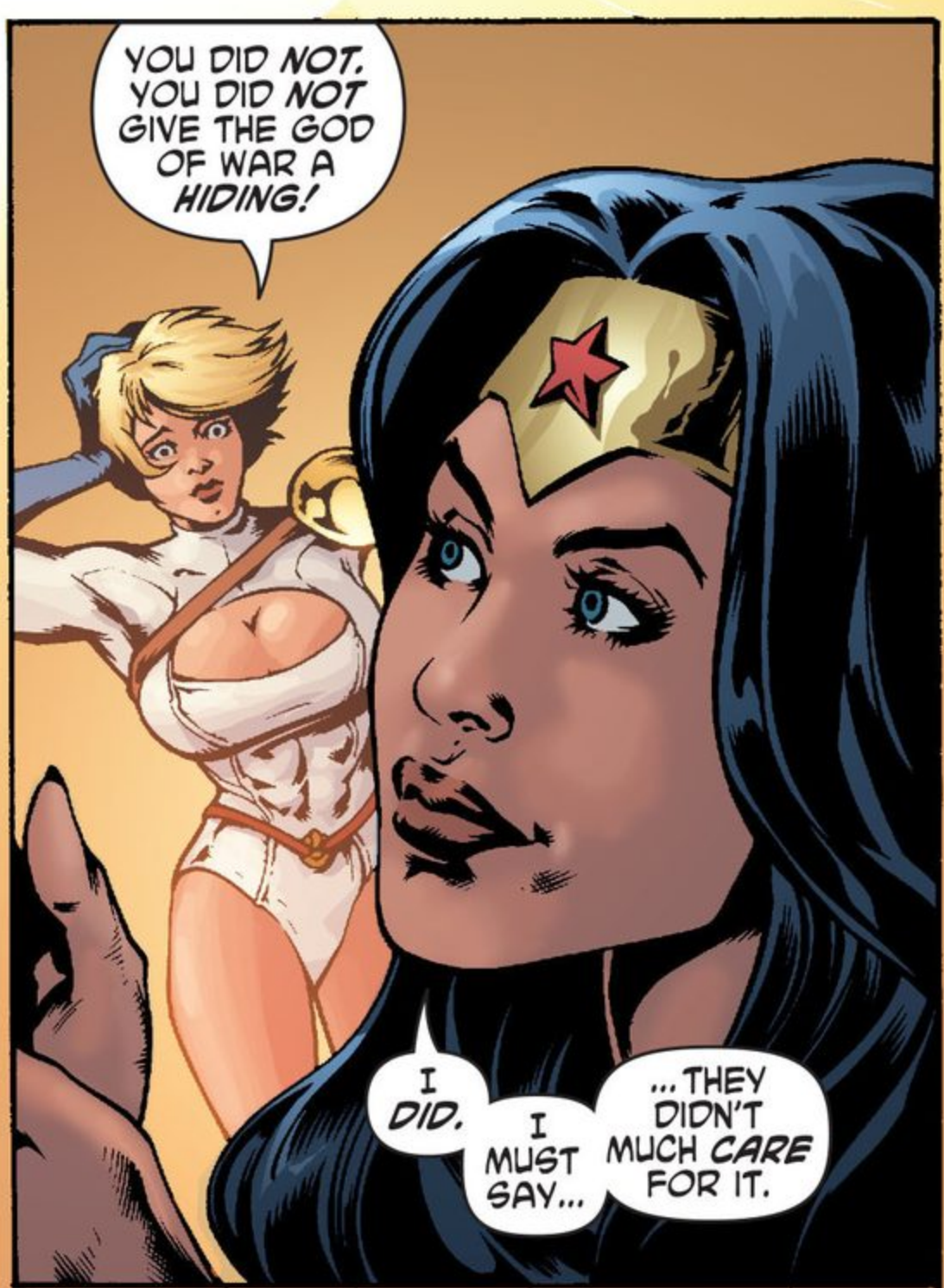
WE AMAZONS HAVE REBUILT AN ISLAND FOR THIS SORT OF THING. A PLACE OF REFORMATION. I AM NOT HOPEFUL.
BUT WE HAVE TO TRY.
THEY ARE PART AMAZON, AFTER ALL.



NO, I MEAN... WHAT WAS THIS PUNISHMENT YOU THREATENED THEM WITH?

OH. THAT.

I GAVE THEM ALL A GOOD HARD SPANKING.



YOU DID NOT. YOU DID NOT GIVE THE GOD OF WAR A HIDING!

I DID. I MUST SAY...
...THEY DIDN'T MUCH CARE FOR IT.



FUNNY, I WAS ABOUT TO ASK THE SAME THING OF YOU.

OH, MAN, I MAY HAVE TO BREAK DOWN AND ASK FOR YOUR AUTOGRAPH.

NEXT: WRATH OF THE SILVER SERPENT!



42
MAY '10

**SIMONE
SCOTT
DAGNINO**

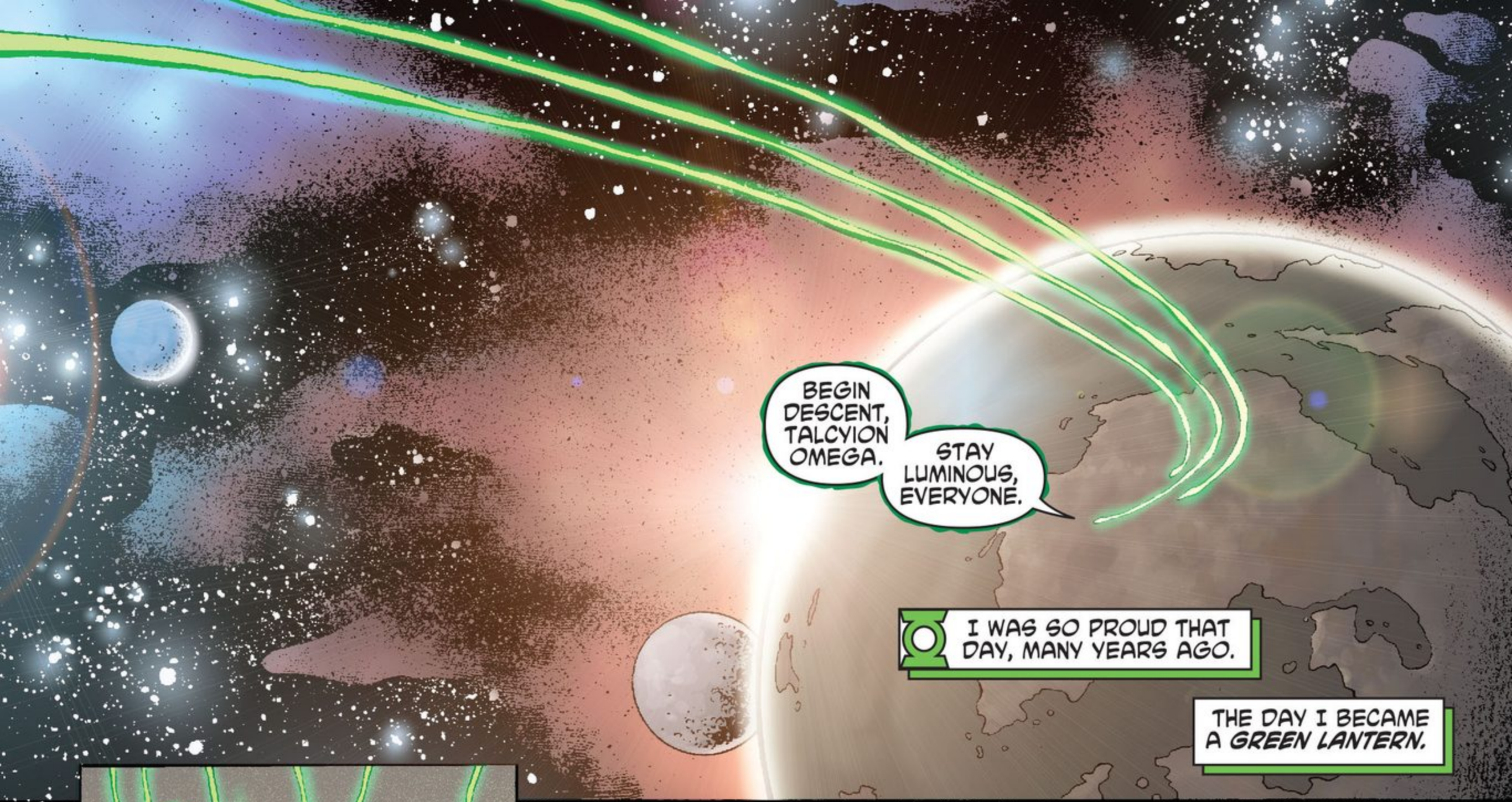
Wonder Woman



GUEST-STARRING:

GREEN LANTERN CORPS





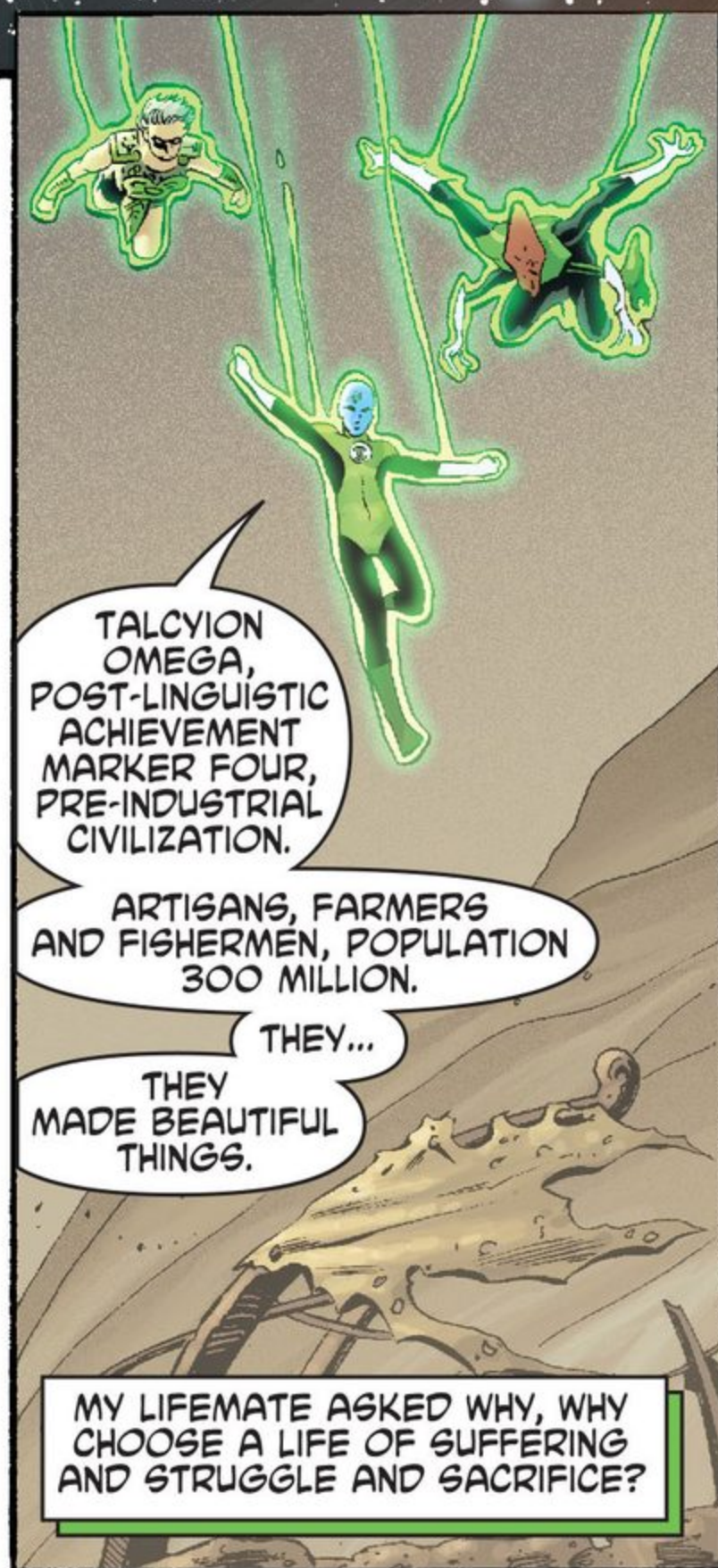
BEGIN
DESCENT,
TALCYION
OMEGA.

STAY
LUMINOUS,
EVERYONE.



I WAS SO PROUD THAT
DAY, MANY YEARS AGO.

THE DAY I BECAME
A GREEN LANTERN.



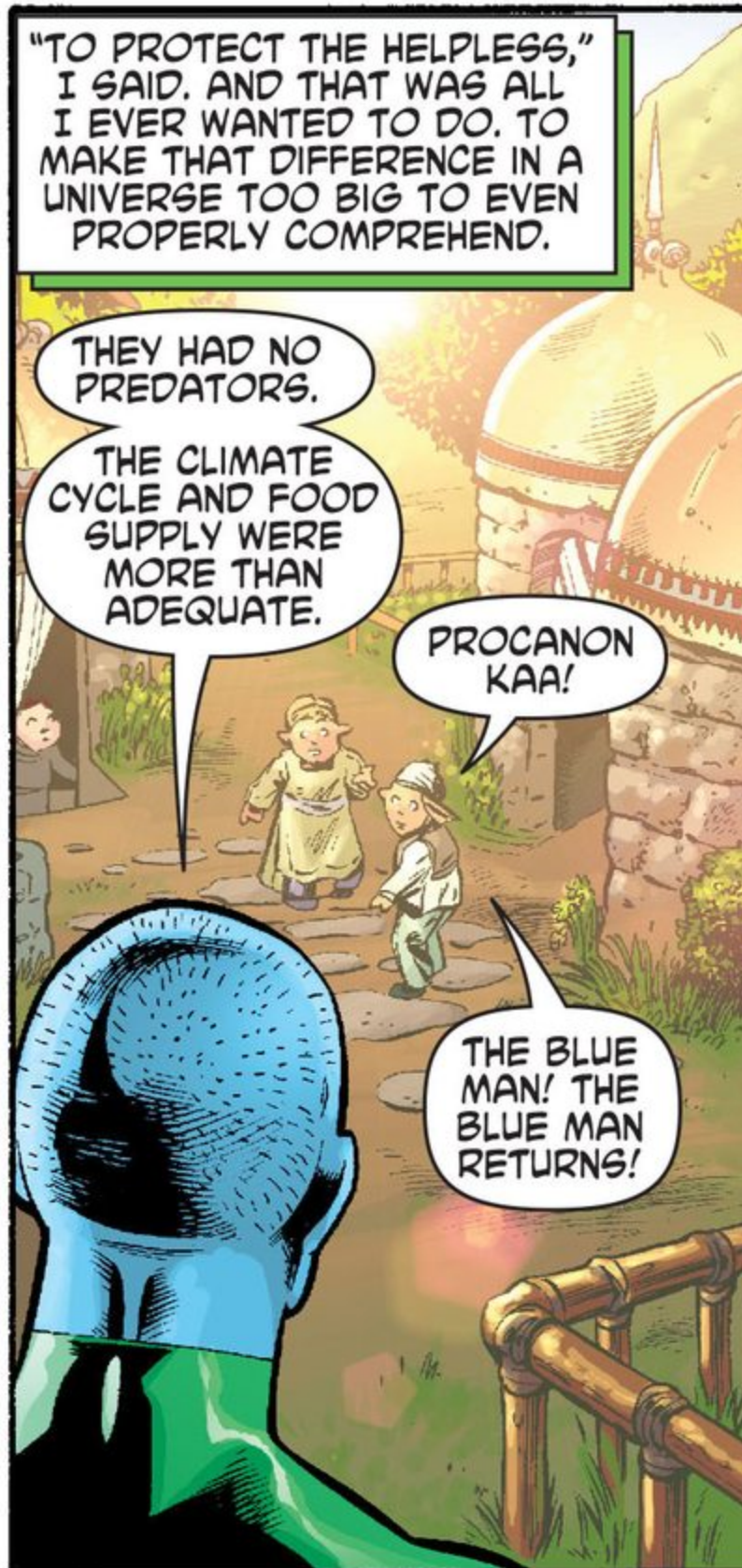
TALCYION
OMEGA,
POST-LINGUISTIC
ACHIEVEMENT
MARKER FOUR,
PRE-INDUSTRIAL
CIVILIZATION.

ARTISANS, FARMERS
AND FISHERMEN, POPULATION
300 MILLION.

THEY...

THEY
MADE BEAUTIFUL
THINGS.

MY LIFEMATE ASKED WHY, WHY
CHOOSE A LIFE OF SUFFERING
AND STRUGGLE AND SACRIFICE?



"TO PROTECT THE HELPLESS,"
I SAID. AND THAT WAS ALL
I EVER WANTED TO DO. TO
MAKE THAT DIFFERENCE IN A
UNIVERSE TOO BIG TO EVEN
PROPERLY COMPREHEND.

THEY HAD NO
PREDATORS.

THE CLIMATE
CYCLE AND FOOD
SUPPLY WERE
MORE THAN
ADEQUATE.

PROCANON
KAA!

THE BLUE
MAN! THE
BLUE MAN
RETURNS!



MAKE
THE GREEN
MAGIC FOR US,
PROCANON
KAA!

LIGHT
UP THE
SKY, BLUE
MAN!

THEY
HAD NEVER
KNOWN FEAR.
THEY WOULDN'T
KNOW TO RUN
OR FIGHT.

TO SAVE
LIVES THAT WOULD
OTHERWISE PERISH.



PROCANON KAA.
WE WANT TO HELP.
IT'S WHY WE'RE HERE,
AT THIS BORDER
WORLD.

BUT I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

WHEN DID
YOU LAST
VISIT THIS...
THIS EMPTY
WASTELAND?
WHEN DID
YOU LAST
SEE THESE
PEOPLE?

WRATH OF THE SILVER SERPENT

Part 1 of 3 CONTAGION

Writer • GAIL SIMONE
Pencillers • NICOLA SCOTT AND FERNANDO DAGNINO
Inkers • DOUG HAZLEWOOD AND BIT
Colorist • BRAD ANDERSON
Letterer • TRAVIS LANHAM
Cover • NICOLA SCOTT AND HI-FI
Associate Editor • SEAN RYAN
Editor • BRIAN CUNNINGHAM
WONDER WOMAN created by
WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTES AGO.

MY OWN PLANET, UNDER MY OWN PROTECTION, IN MY OWN SECTOR, WAS RAVAGED BY A KHUND INVASION.

MY DAUGHTER WAS KILLED. MY CITIES DECIMATED.

PLEASE, WHATEVER GODS OR WIZARDS MIGHT BE LISTENING...



...DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

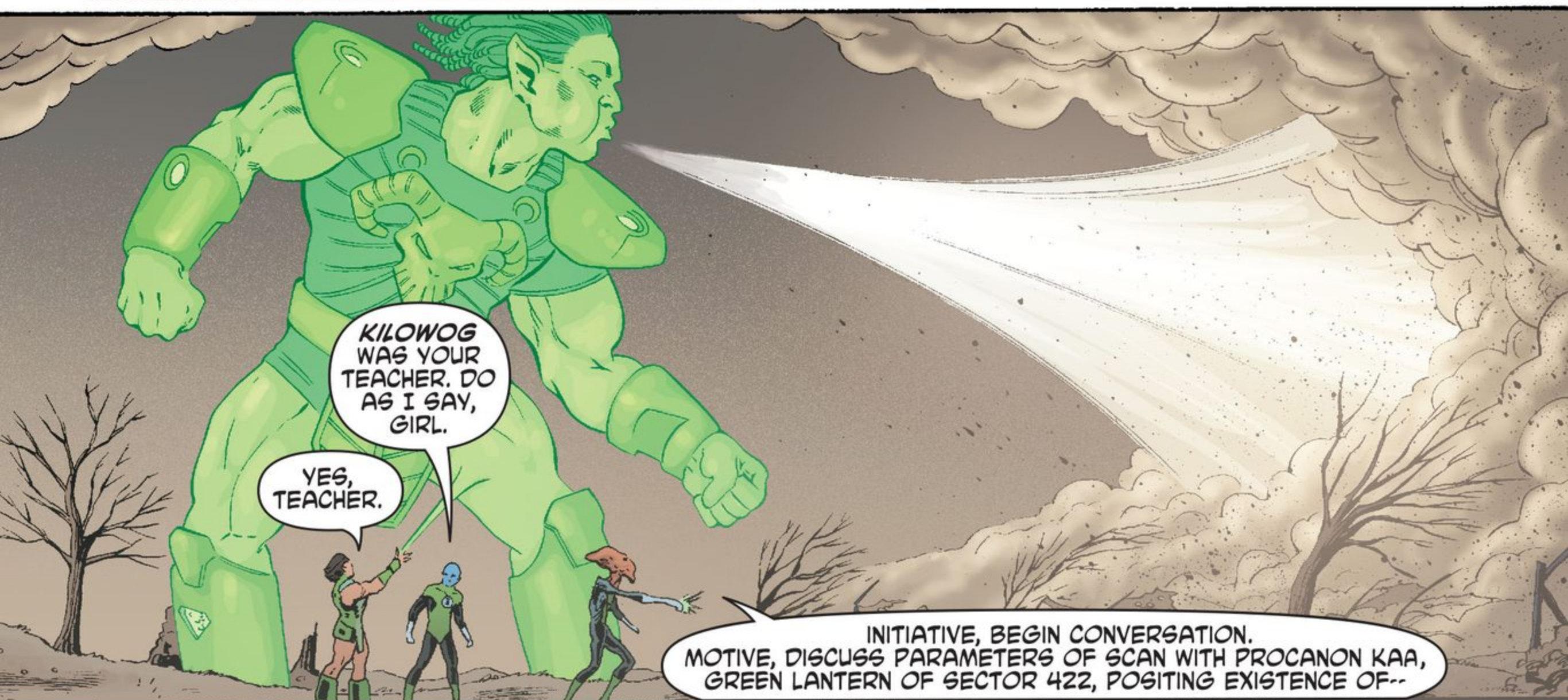
THULKA RE, PLEASE SCAN FOR SURVIVORS IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

KHO KHARHI, CLEAR SOME OF THIS PARTICULATE MATTER. IT IMPEDES VISUAL ACUITY.

YES, TEACHER.

AND YOU DON'T BOW TO A FELLOW CORPSMAN, GREEN LANTERN.

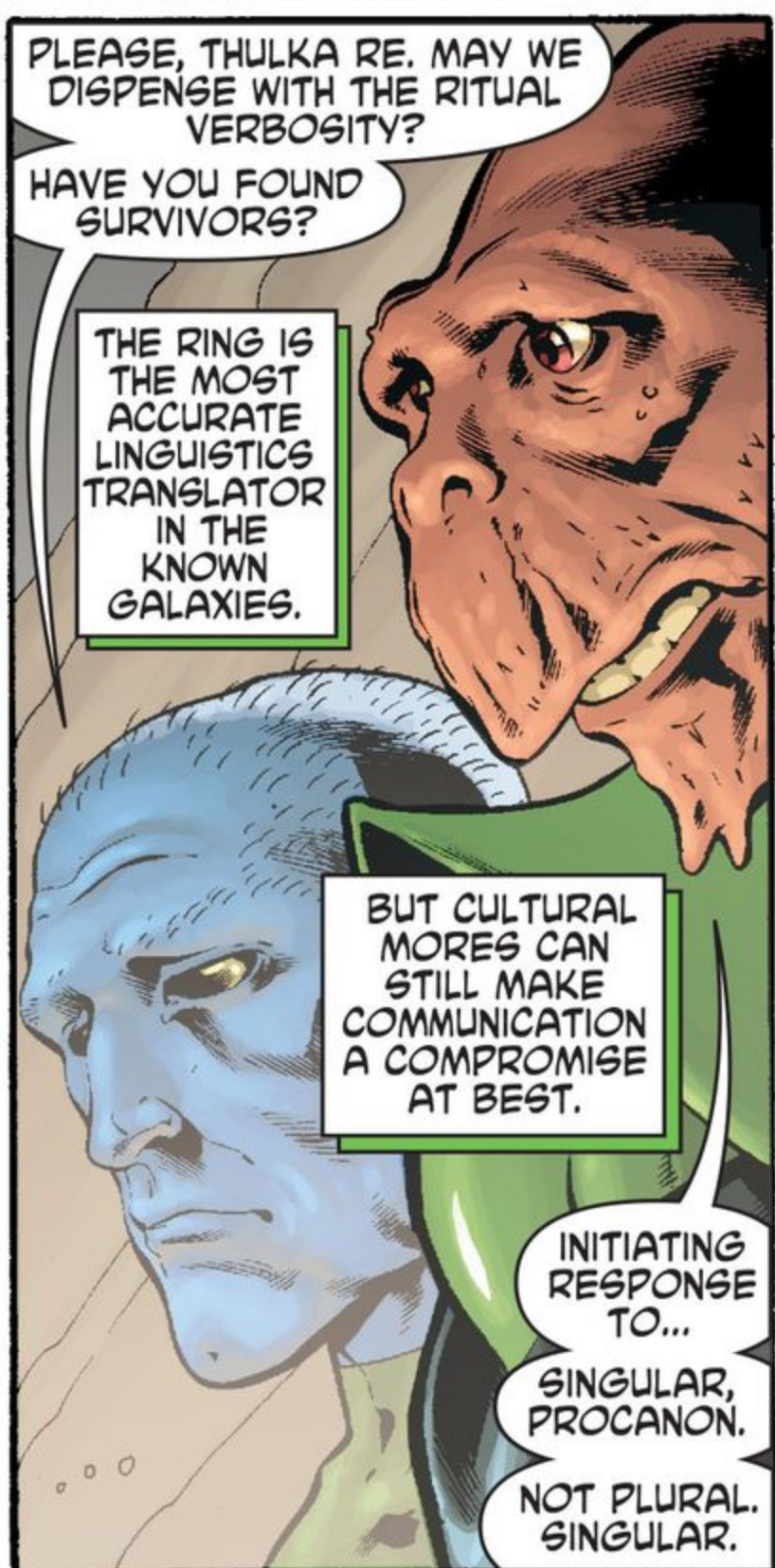
YES, TEACHER.



KILOWOG WAS YOUR TEACHER. DO AS I SAY, GIRL.

YES, TEACHER.

INITIATIVE, BEGIN CONVERSATION. MOTIVE, DISCUSS PARAMETERS OF SCAN WITH PROCANON KAA, GREEN LANTERN OF SECTOR 422, POSITING EXISTENCE OF--



PLEASE, THULKA RE. MAY WE DISPENSE WITH THE RITUAL VERBOSITY?

HAVE YOU FOUND SURVIVORS?

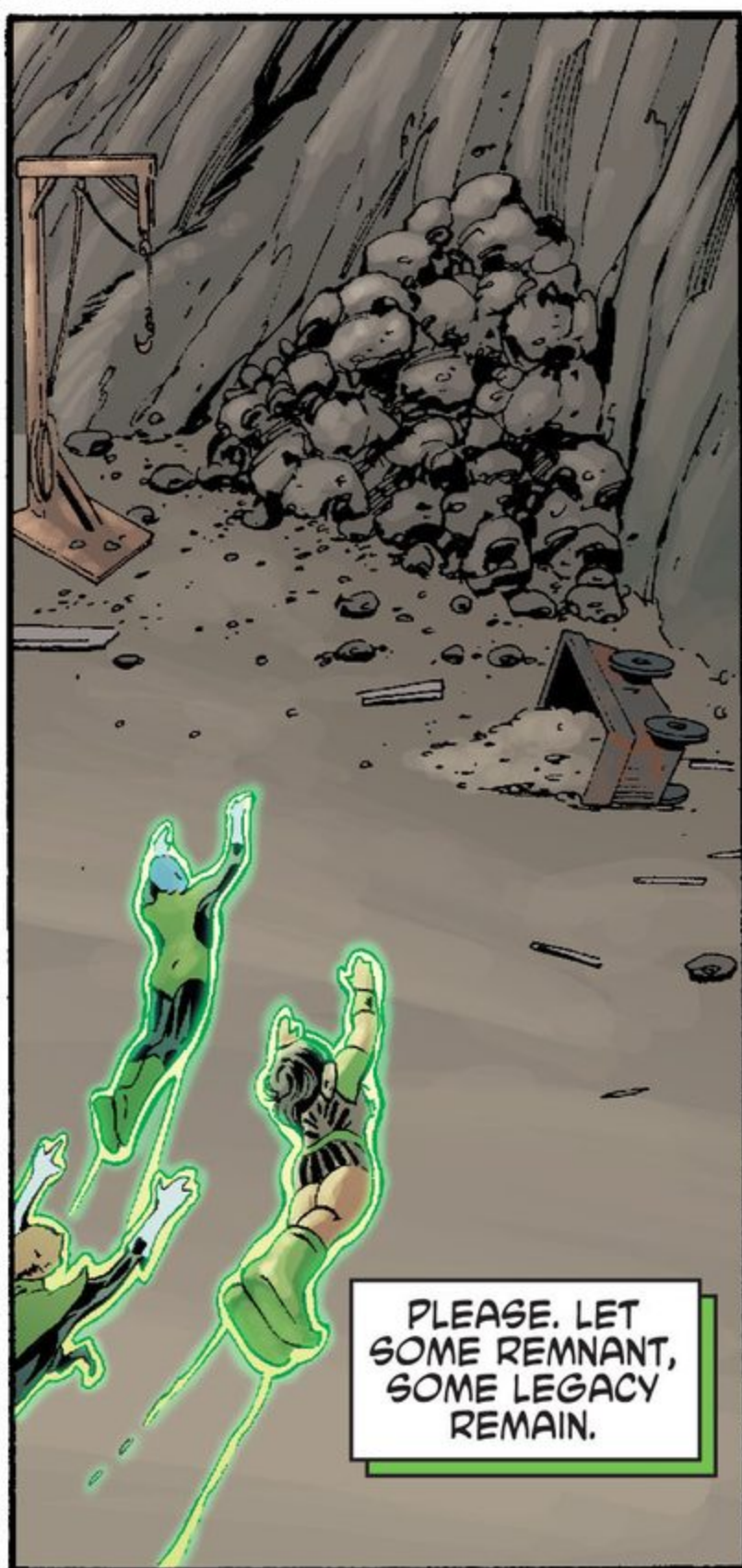
THE RING IS THE MOST ACCURATE LINGUISTICS TRANSLATOR IN THE KNOWN GALAXIES.

BUT CULTURAL MORES CAN STILL MAKE COMMUNICATION A COMPROMISE AT BEST.

INITIATING RESPONSE TO...

SINGULAR, PROCANON.

NOT PLURAL. SINGULAR.



PLEASE. LET SOME REMNANT, SOME LEGACY REMAIN.



KHO KHARHI IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE KHUND AMBASSADOR WHO ORDERED MY PLANET'S DESTRUCTION.

HER SENSE OF JUSTICE WAS CONSIDERED A MENTAL ILLNESS ON HER HOMEWORLD.

SHE HASN'T SEEN HER ENTIRE WORLD DESTROYED. I WISH I COULD WARN HER ABOUT COMPASSION'S TRUE COST.

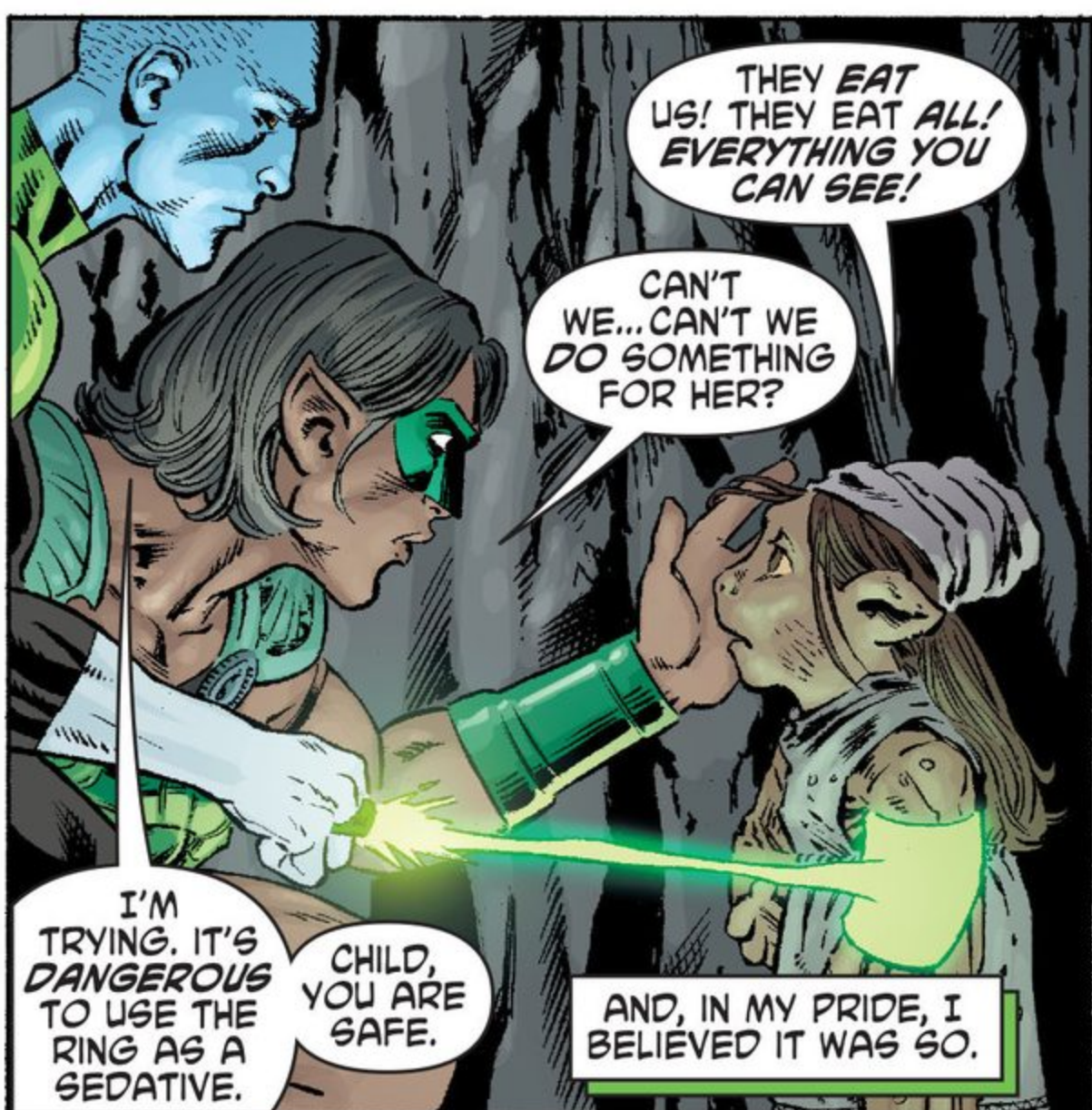


IT IS FEELING THE PAIN OF OTHERS AS KEENLY AS YOUR OWN.

AND WE DON'T NEED THE RING TO COMMUNICATE THAT.

NAY!
NAY!

THE SERPENTS!
WE ARE THEIR FOOD! WE ARE THEIR FOOD!



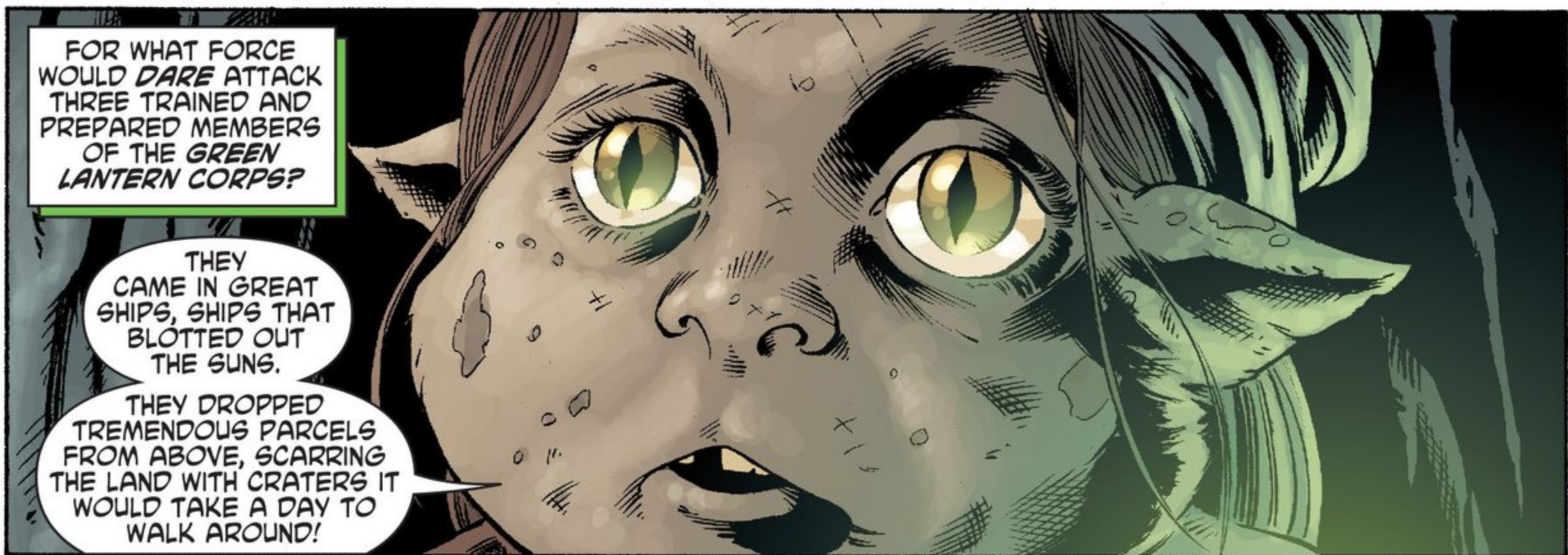
THEY EAT US! THEY EAT ALL! EVERYTHING YOU CAN SEE!

CAN'T WE... CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING FOR HER?

I'M TRYING. IT'S DANGEROUS TO USE THE RING AS A SEDATIVE.

CHILD, YOU ARE SAFE.

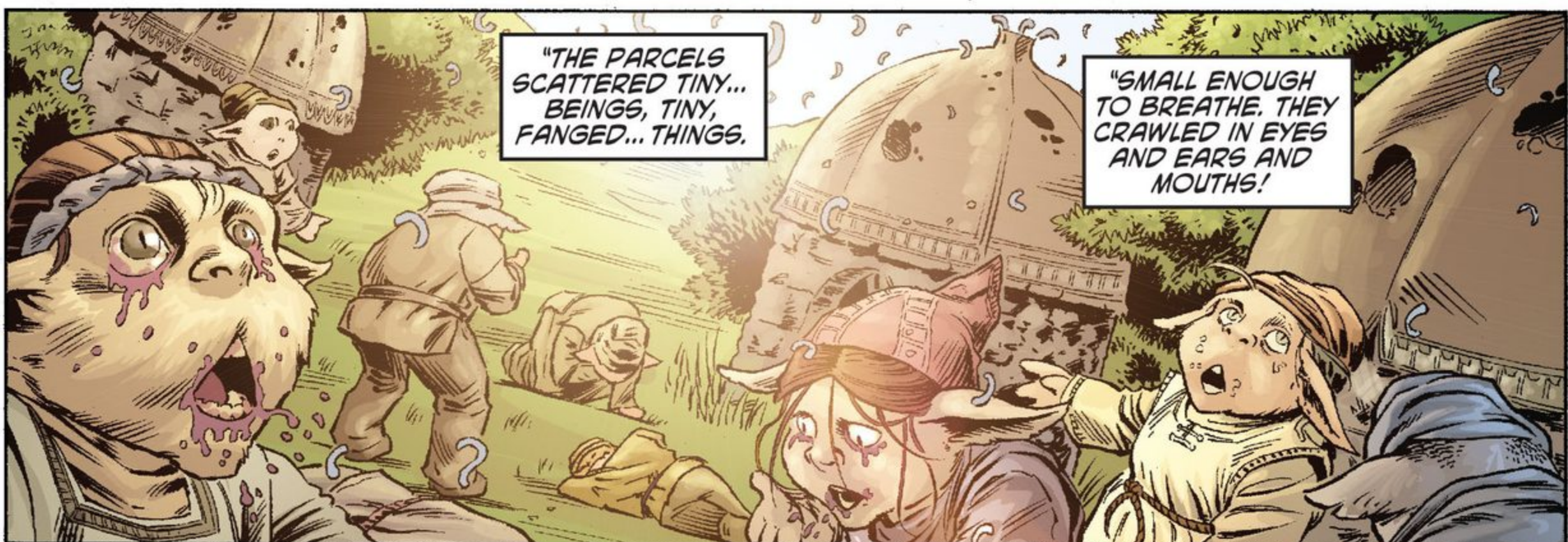
AND, IN MY PRIDE, I BELIEVED IT WAS SO.



FOR WHAT FORCE WOULD *DARE* ATTACK THREE TRAINED AND PREPARED MEMBERS OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS?

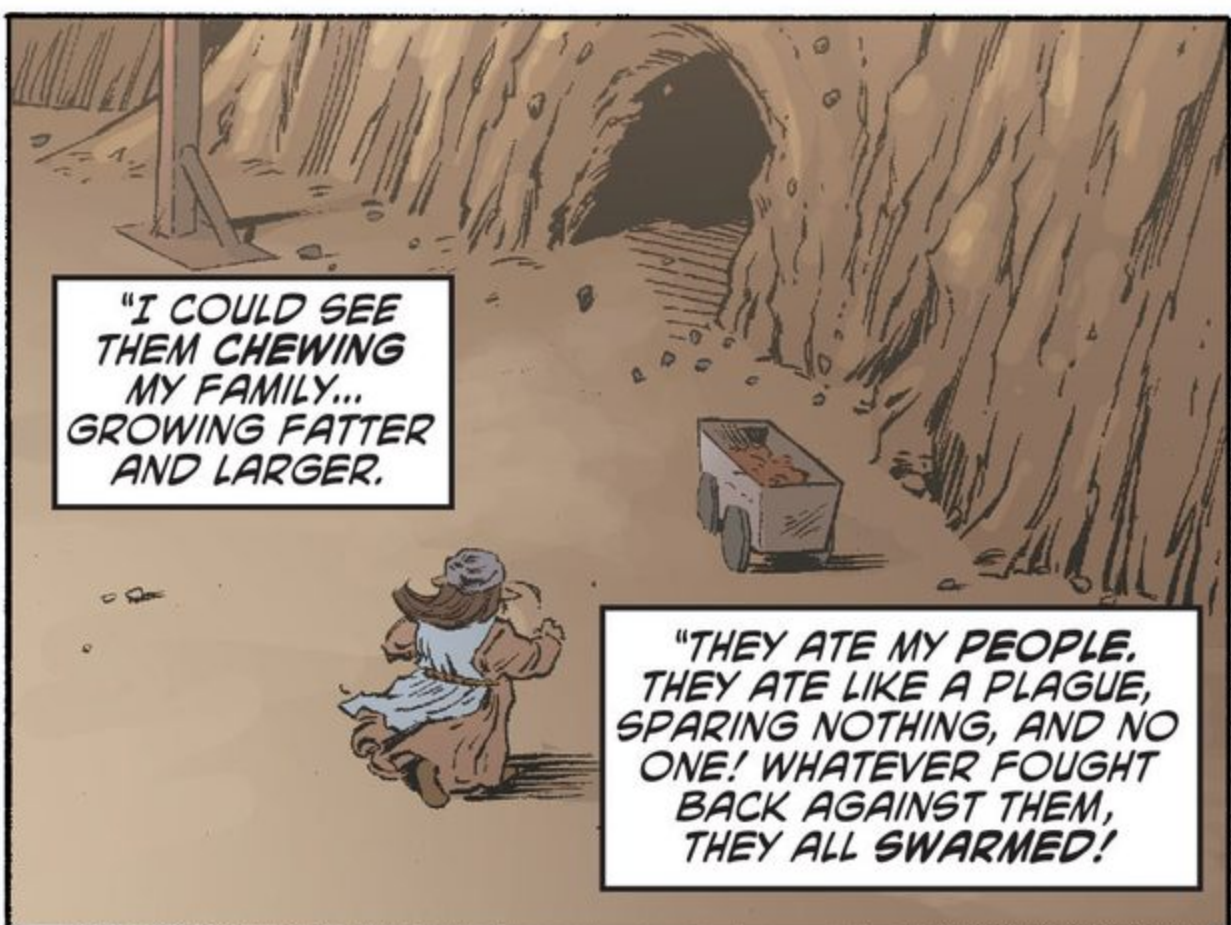
THEY CAME IN GREAT SHIPS, SHIPS THAT BLOTTED OUT THE SUNS.

THEY DROPPED TREMENDOUS PARCELS FROM ABOVE, SCARRING THE LAND WITH CRATERS IT WOULD TAKE A DAY TO WALK AROUND!



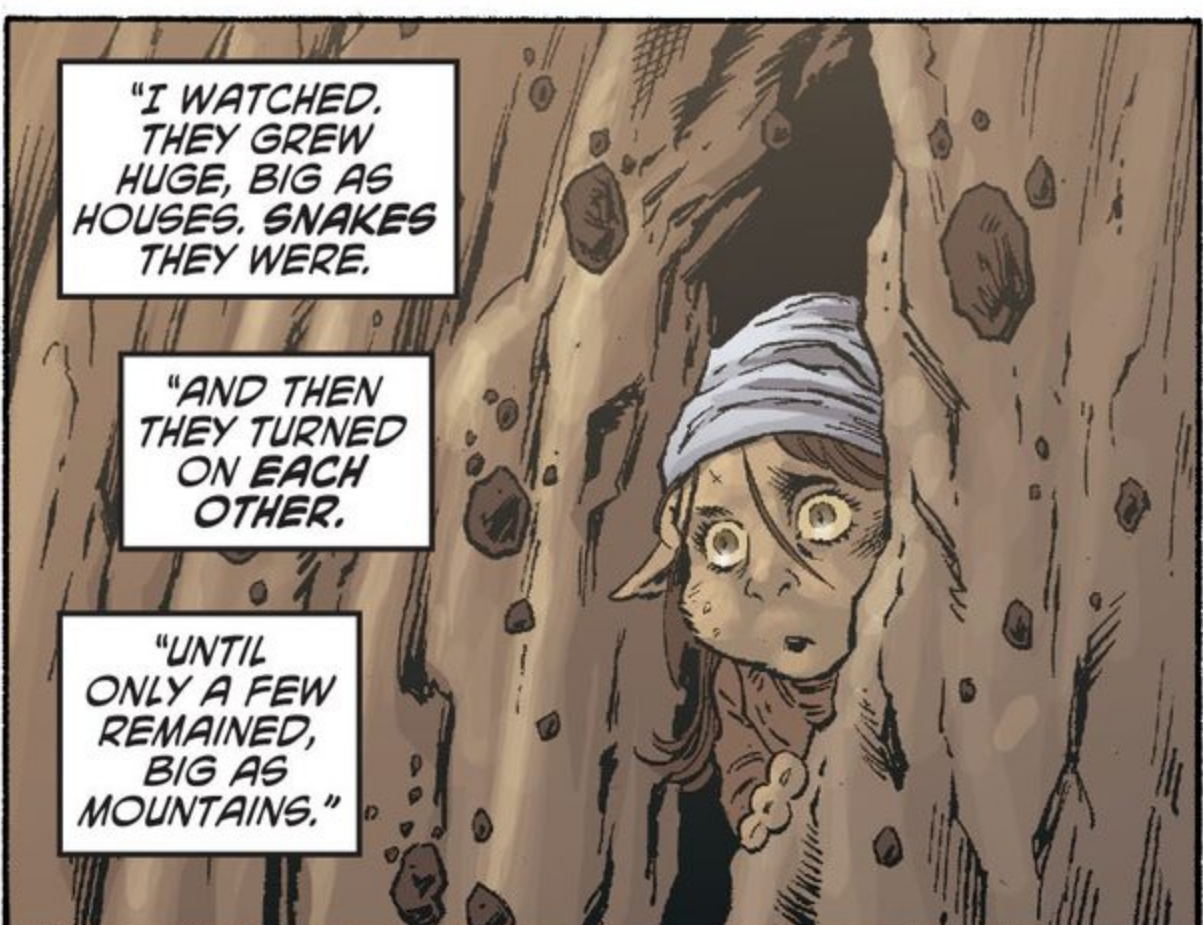
"THE PARCELS SCATTERED TINY... BEINGS, TINY, FANGED... THINGS.

"SMALL ENOUGH TO BREATHE. THEY CRAWLED IN EYES AND EARS AND MOUTHS!"



"I COULD SEE THEM CHEWING MY FAMILY... GROWING FATTER AND LARGER.

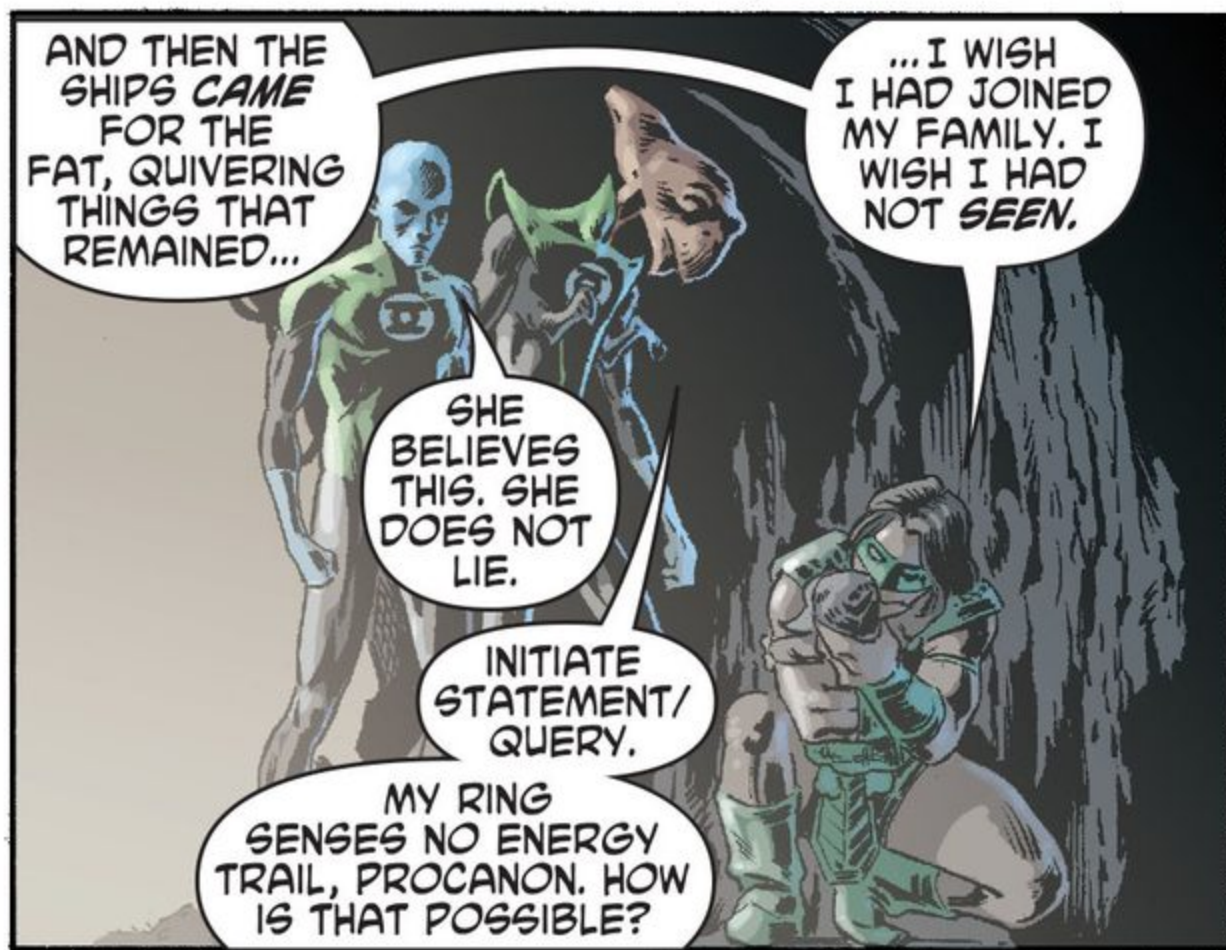
"THEY ATE MY PEOPLE. THEY ATE LIKE A PLAGUE, SPARING NOTHING, AND NO ONE! WHATEVER FOUGHT BACK AGAINST THEM, THEY ALL SWARMED!"



"I WATCHED. THEY GREW HUGE, BIG AS HOUSES. SNAKES THEY WERE.

"AND THEN THEY TURNED ON EACH OTHER.

"UNTIL ONLY A FEW REMAINED, BIG AS MOUNTAINS."



AND THEN THE SHIPS CAME FOR THE FAT, QUIVERING THINGS THAT REMAINED...

SHE BELIEVES THIS. SHE DOES NOT LIE.

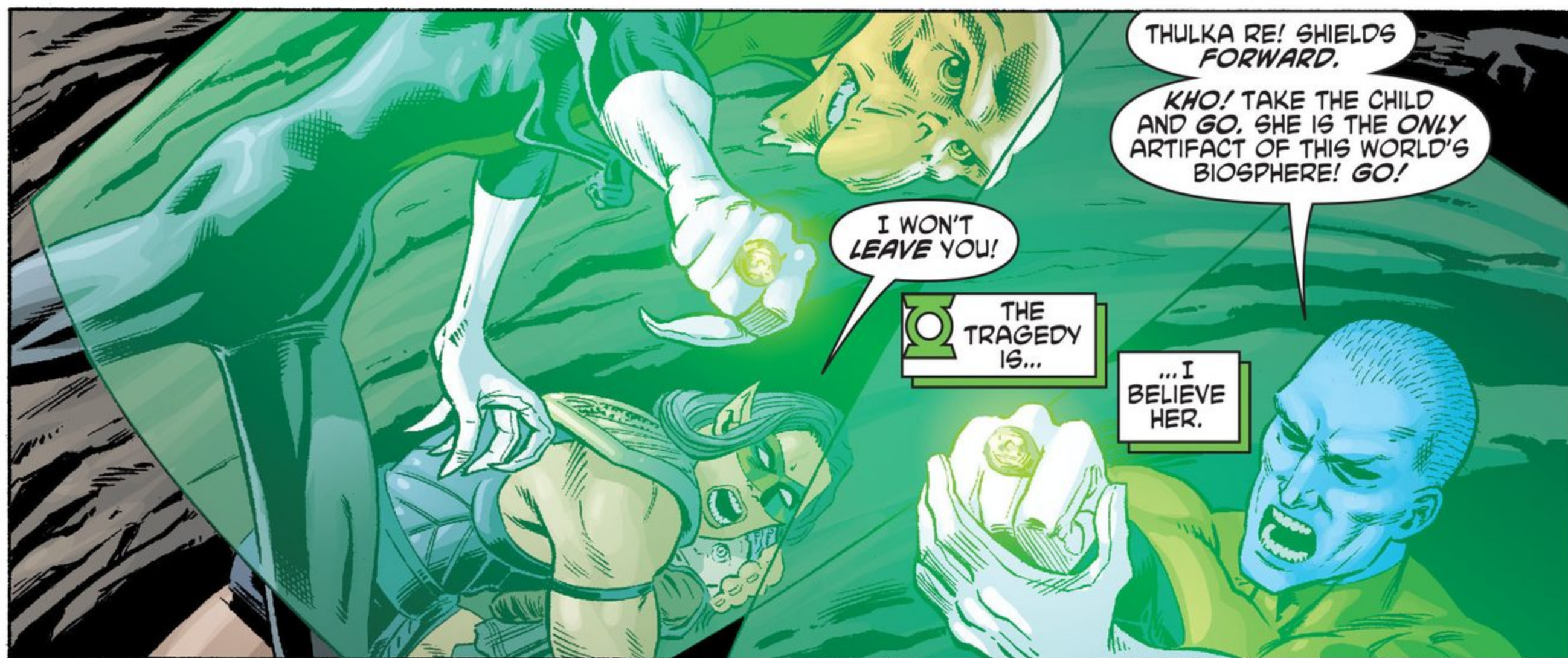
INITIATE STATEMENT/QUERY.

MY RING SENSES NO ENERGY TRAIL, PROCANON. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

... I WISH I HAD JOINED MY FAMILY. I WISH I HAD NOT SEEN.



OH. THAT'S THEM. THEY'RE COMING BACK.



THULKA RE! SHIELDS FORWARD.

KHO! TAKE THE CHILD AND GO. SHE IS THE ONLY ARTIFACT OF THIS WORLD'S BIOSPHERE! GO!

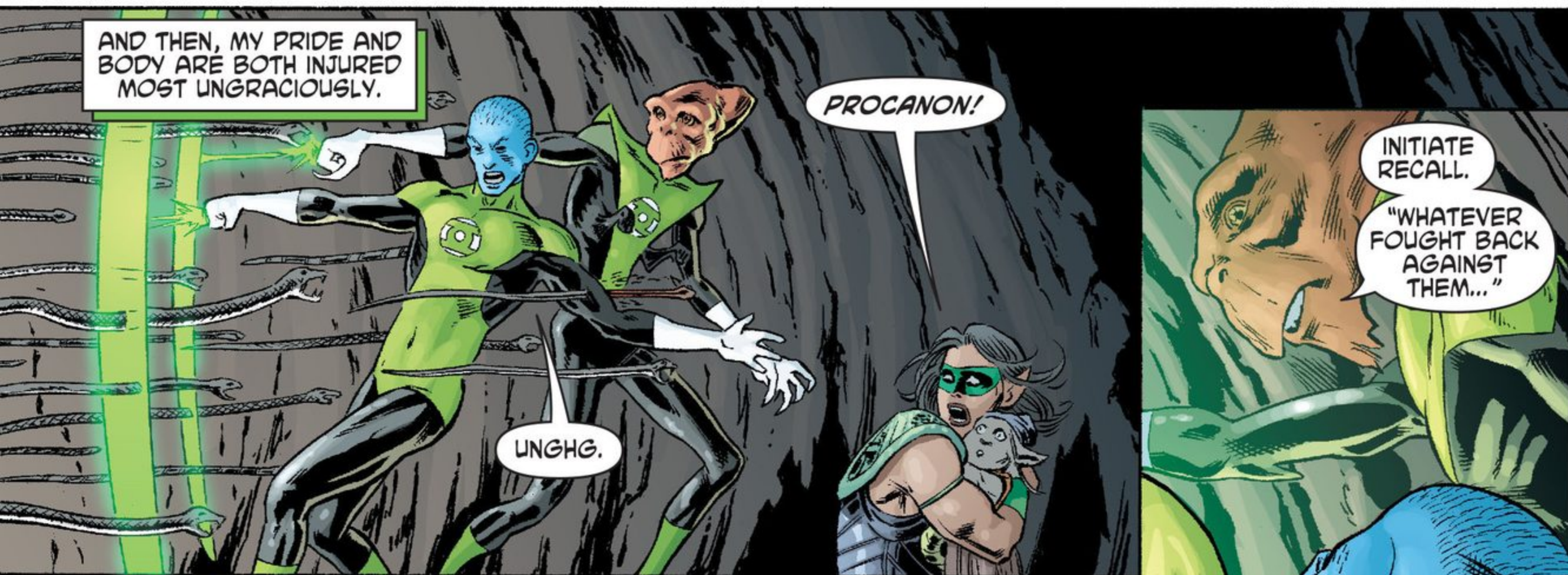
I WON'T LEAVE YOU!

THE TRAGEDY IS...

... I BELIEVE HER.



COURAGE, LANTERNS. COURAGE.



AND THEN, MY PRIDE AND BODY ARE BOTH INJURED MOST UNGRACIOUSLY.

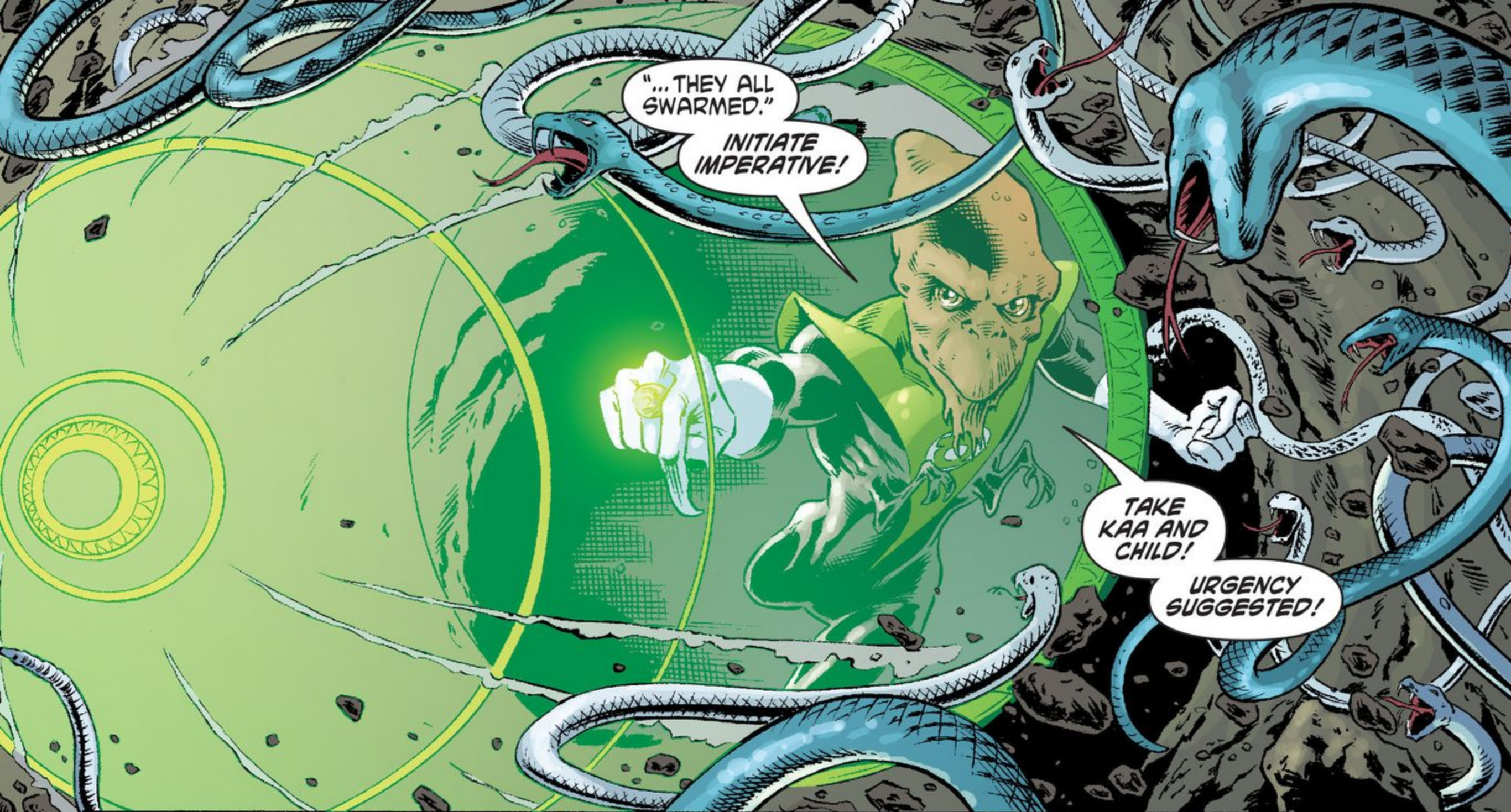
PROCANON!

UNGHG.



INITIATE RECALL.

"WHATEVER FOUGHT BACK AGAINST THEM..."



"... THEY ALL SWARMED."

INITIATE IMPERATIVE!

TAKE KAA AND CHILD!

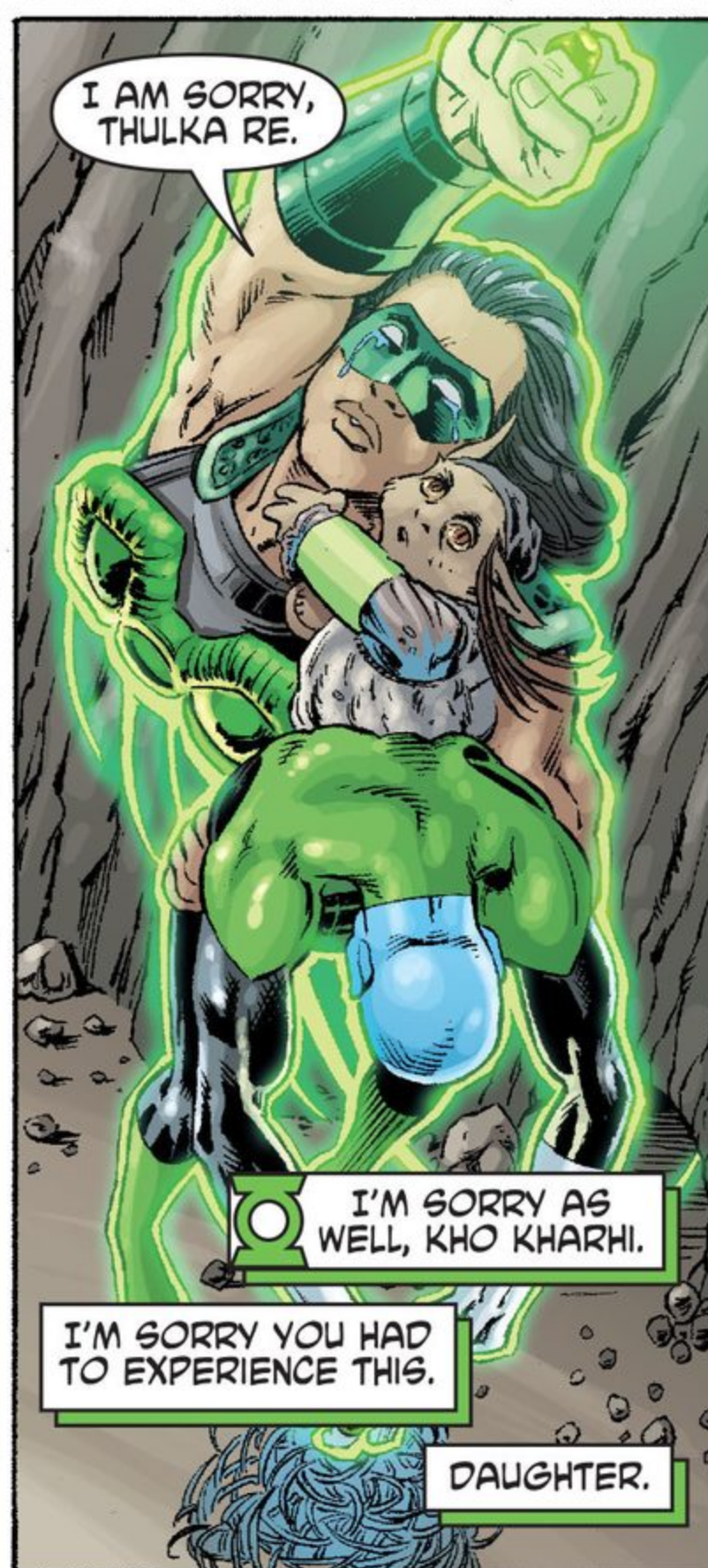
URGENCY SUGGESTED!



OH.



INITIATE PRAYER.



I AM SORRY, THULKA RE.

I'M SORRY AS WELL, KHO KHARHI.

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO EXPERIENCE THIS.

DAUGHTER.



IT IS THE COST OF COMPASSION.

RING STATUS REPORT: GREEN LANTERN OF SECTOR 423 DECEASED.



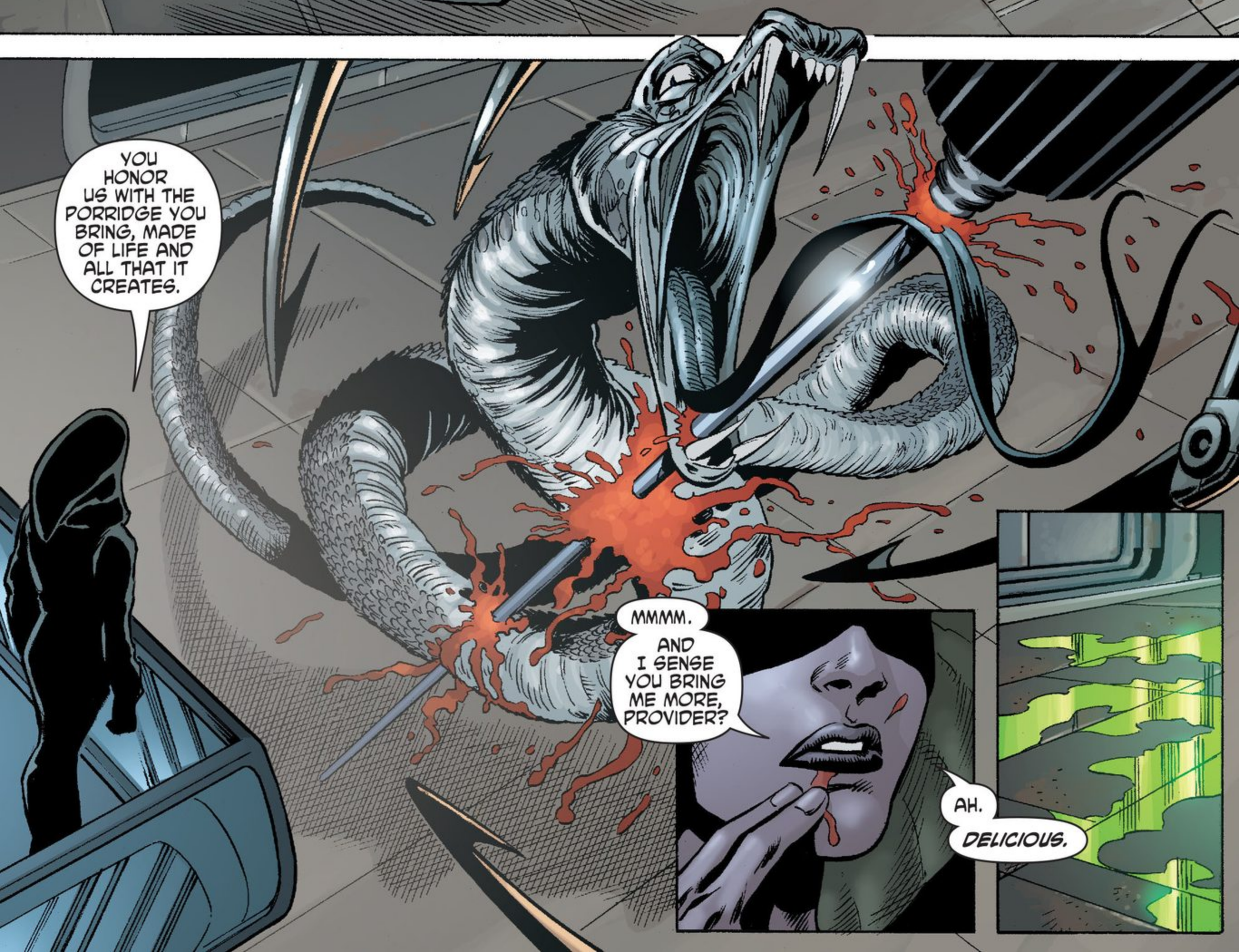
WELL DONE,
SERPENT-OF-
HEAVEN.

MAY
YOUR SLURRY
NOURISH US
ALL.



YOUR
BELLY IS
FULL.

SLEEP
WELL THEN,
PROVIDER.



YOU
HONOR
US WITH THE
PORRIDGE YOU
BRING, MADE
OF LIFE AND
ALL THAT IT
CREATES.

MMMM.
AND
I SENSE
YOU BRING
ME MORE,
PROVIDER?

AH.
DELICIOUS.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO DO
THIS, YOU
KNOW.

DAYBREAK. NO
BETTER REASON
TO GO ON, TO
PERSEVERE WHAT
EXISTS IN NATURE.

IT'S FELT
A BIT LIKE
NIGHT WOULD
NEVER END.

SO MUCH PAIN.
SO MUCH GRIEF.

AND EVERY DAY
THE SUN COMES
UP AGAIN.

WARM,
ILLUMINATING AND
INDESCRIBABLY
LOVELY.

THAT BOUNTY, THAT
MAJESTY SHINES ON SAINT
AND SINNER ALIKE.

EVERY RISE OF THE
SUN IS A NEW CHANCE
TO CHANGE WAYS, TO
BE THE PERSON WE'D
ALWAYS HOPED WE
COULD BE.

MANY D.M.A.
AGENTS WERE
KILLED HERE,
STEVE.

AMAZONS
PAY THEIR
DEBTS.

OUR CHANCE
TO BE
REBORN.

OUR CHANCE TO BREATHE
AIR AS REINVENTED BEINGS.

IT IS
OUR GIFT
FROM THE
HEAVENS.

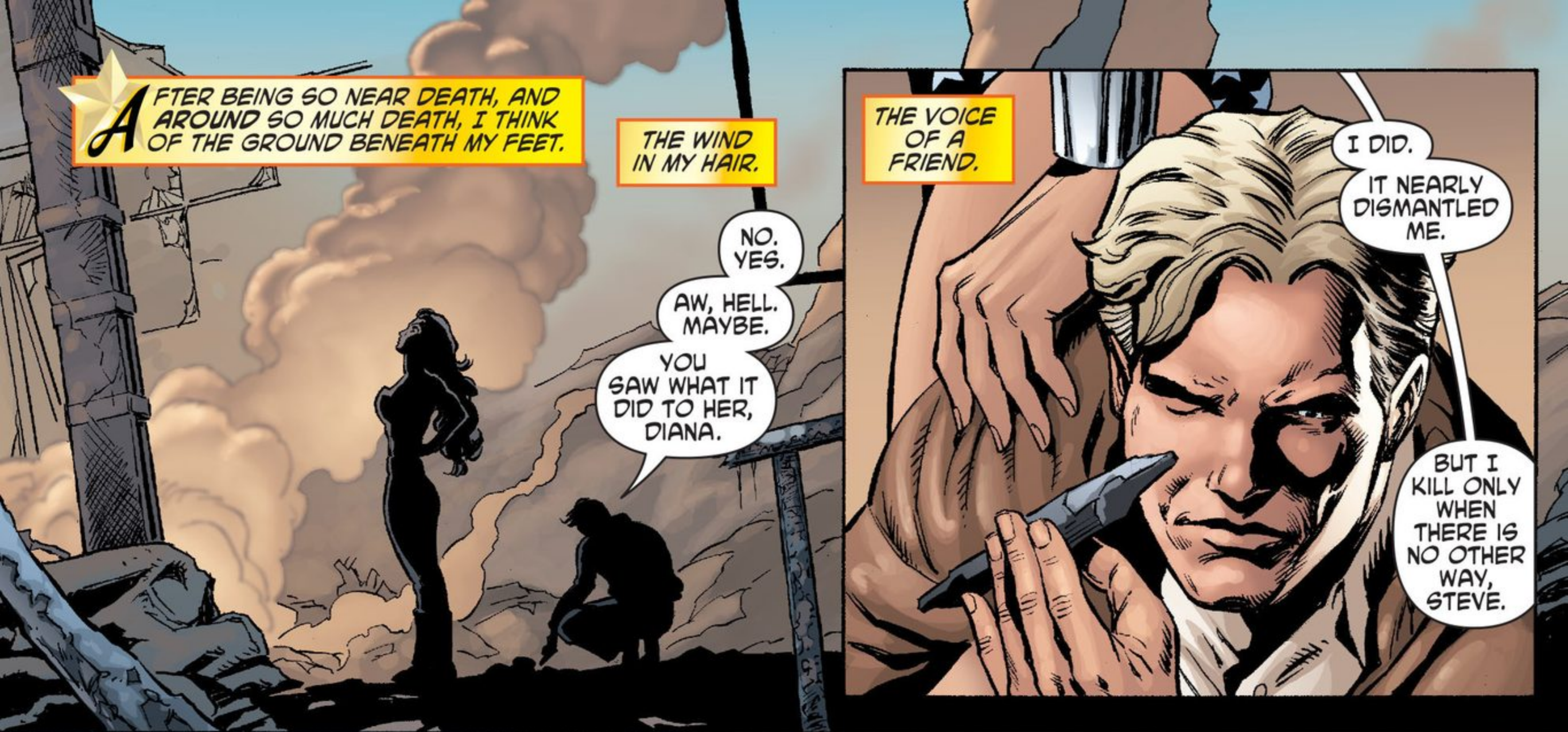
THEY
EVER FIND
THAT... GENOCIDE?
THEY EVER
FIND ITS BODY,
PRINCESS?

NO. WE
TRIED,
BUT... NO.

ETTA... SHE SEEMS
LIKE HER OLD SELF, DIANA.
BUT I DON'T WANT THAT
THING COMING BACK.

STEVE,
IF YOU ARE...

IF YOU'RE
ASKING ME TO
KILL IT...



AFTER BEING SO NEAR DEATH, AND AROUND SO MUCH DEATH, I THINK OF THE GROUND BENEATH MY FEET.

THE WIND IN MY HAIR.

THE VOICE OF A FRIEND.

I DID.

IT NEARLY DISMANTLED ME.

BUT I KILL ONLY WHEN THERE IS NO OTHER WAY, STEVE.

NO. YES.

AW, HELL. MAYBE.

YOU SAW WHAT IT DID TO HER, DIANA.



I THINK OF EVERY REASON THERE IS TO LIVE.

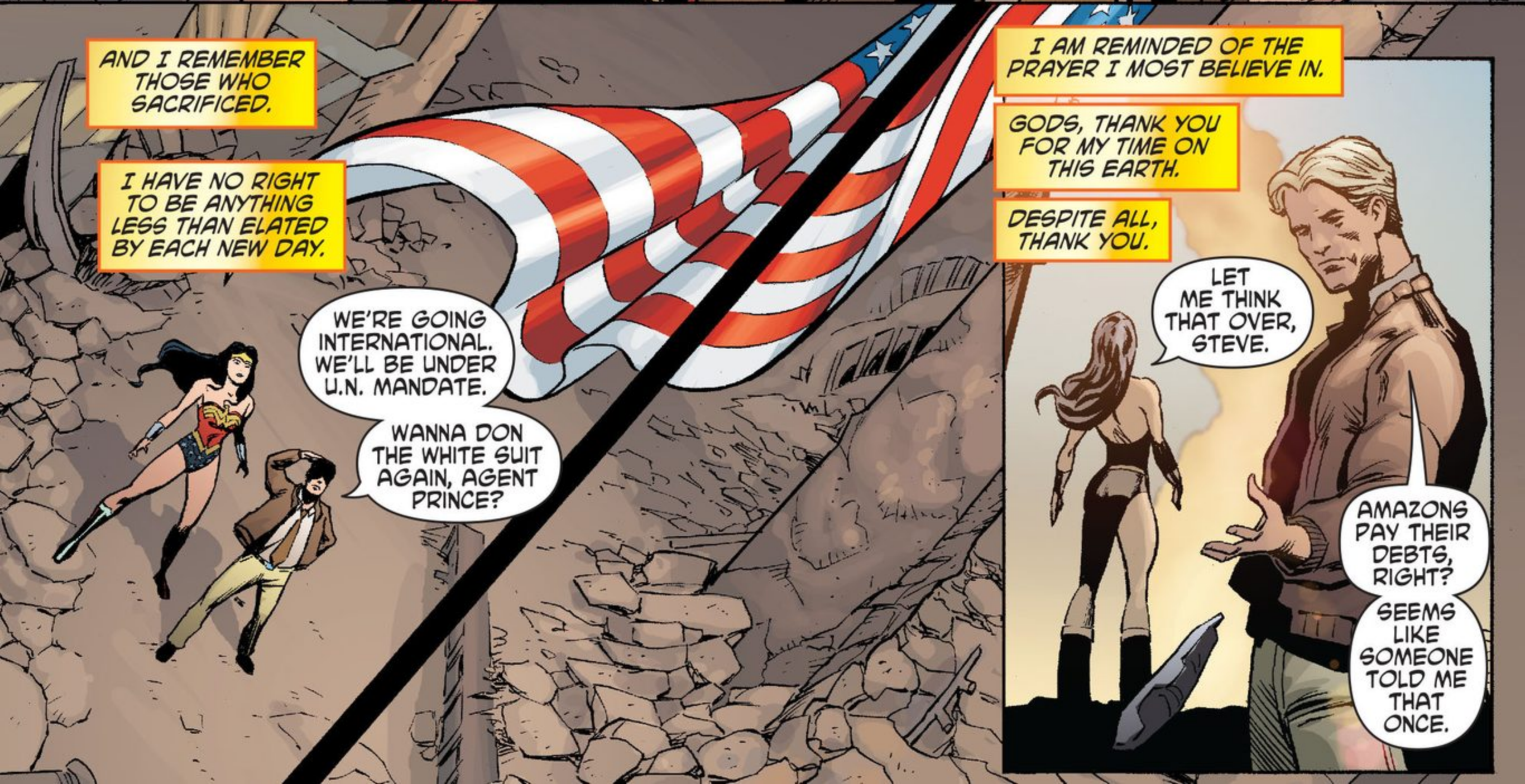
MOTHERS, AND SISTERS, AND GORILLAS, AND CAKE.

FLYING.

I KNOW THAT. I KNOW THAT.

JUST... KEEP LOOKING, OKAY?

WE'RE REOPENING THE D.M.A. YOU STILL HAVE A JOB.



AND I REMEMBER THOSE WHO SACRIFICED.

I HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE ANYTHING LESS THAN ELATED BY EACH NEW DAY.

WE'RE GOING INTERNATIONAL. WE'LL BE UNDER U.N. MANDATE.

WANNA DON THE WHITE SUIT AGAIN, AGENT PRINCE?

I AM REMINDED OF THE PRAYER I MOST BELIEVE IN.

GODS, THANK YOU FOR MY TIME ON THIS EARTH.

DESPITE ALL, THANK YOU.

LET ME THINK THAT OVER, STEVE.

AMAZONS PAY THEIR DEBTS, RIGHT?

SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT ONCE.

BUT SOME SHADOWS
MANAGE TO BLANKET
EVEN THE CLEAREST
MORNINGS...

WHAT
IN GOD'S
NAME?

I WAS
ABOUT TO
ASK THE SAME
QUESTION IN
PLURAL.

THE GREEN SHIELD IS
ENGAGED OVER THE
CITY, CAPTAIN.

THANK YOU, CITIZEN
ZUSEN. AND THIS IS
THIS NATION'S
CAPITAL?

YES,
CAPTAIN.

PREPARE
THE FIRST
EGGS.

IS THAT...
SOMETHING
LEAGUE-
ISH?

DEFINITELY
NOT.

FRIENDLY?

I DON'T
KNOW, BUT...
HOW ODD.

IT CASTS
A GREEN
SHADOW.

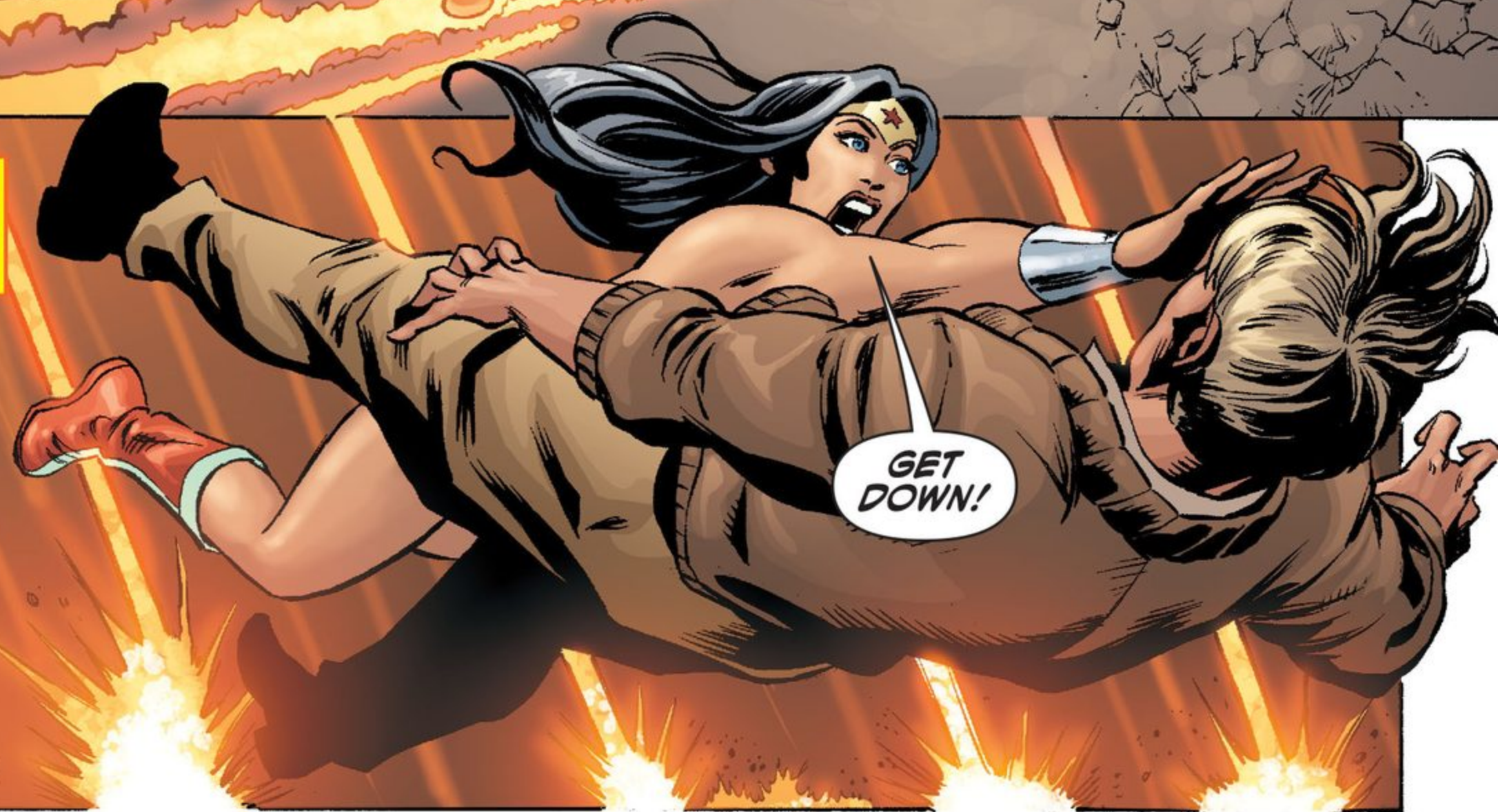
LAUNCH
THE EGGS.

TIME TO
MAKE *DINNER*,
CITIZENS.



UH,
BOY.

7 UNNY, I WAS
ABOUT TO SAY
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT, TOO.



GET
DOWN!



GET
INSIDE.
TAKE
COVER.

BOOM

WHO ARE THESE
PEOPLE? THEY'RE
NOT KHUND OR
DOMINATOR.

I CAN DEFEND
THE CITY.

BUT
WHAT IF...

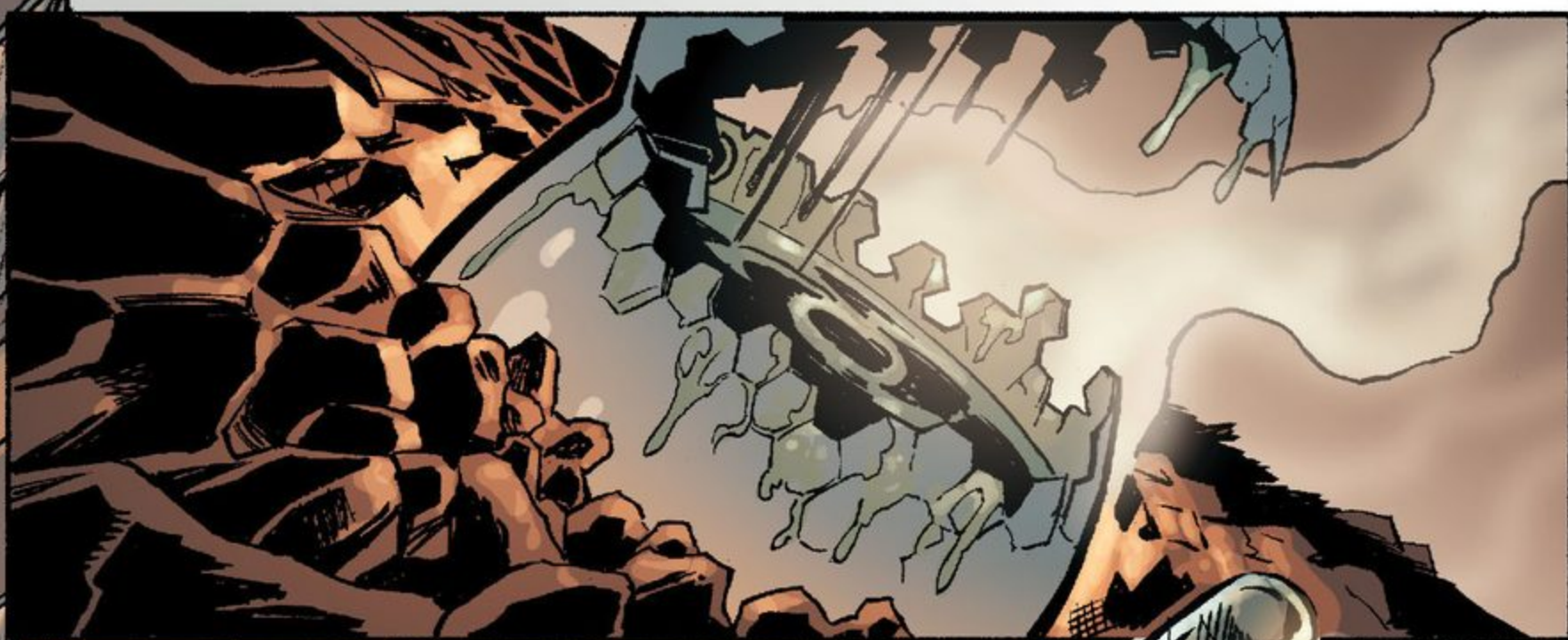
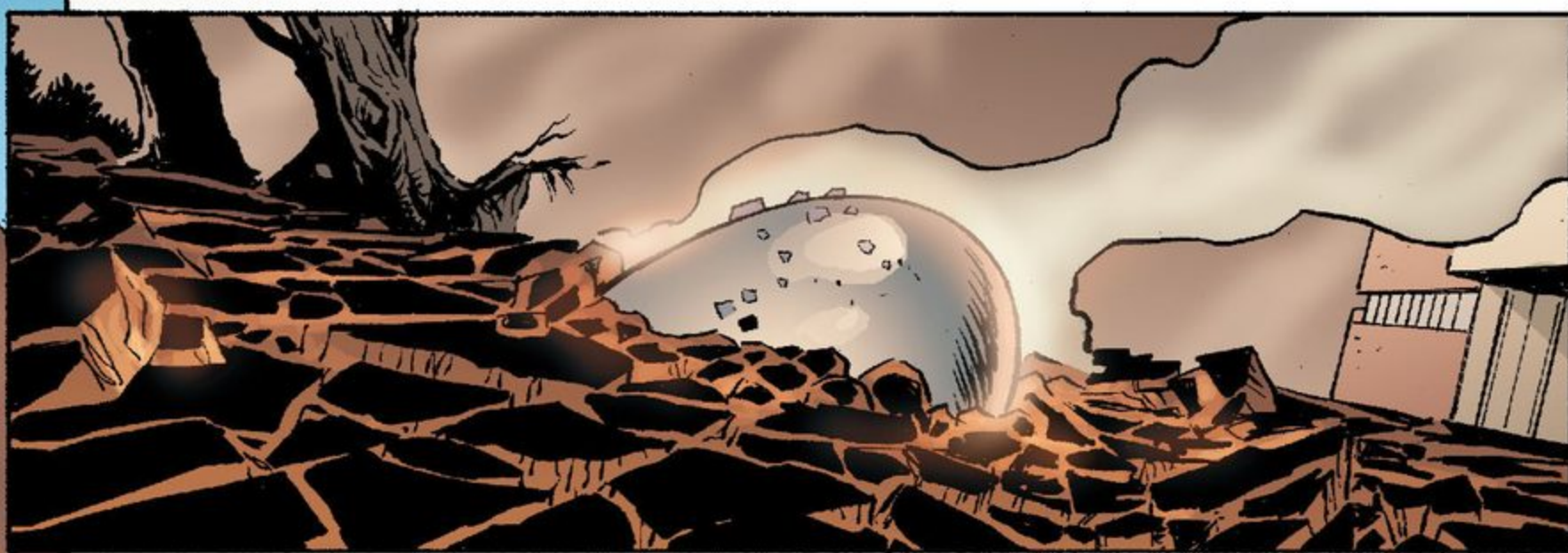
WHAT IF THIS
IS HAPPENING
EVERYWHERE?



NO
MATTER.

I WILL NOT
ALLOW AN
INVASION.





"STEVE, BABY,
I APPRECIATE
YOU RUSHING
HERE AND
TRYING TO
KEEP ME CALM
AND ALL..."

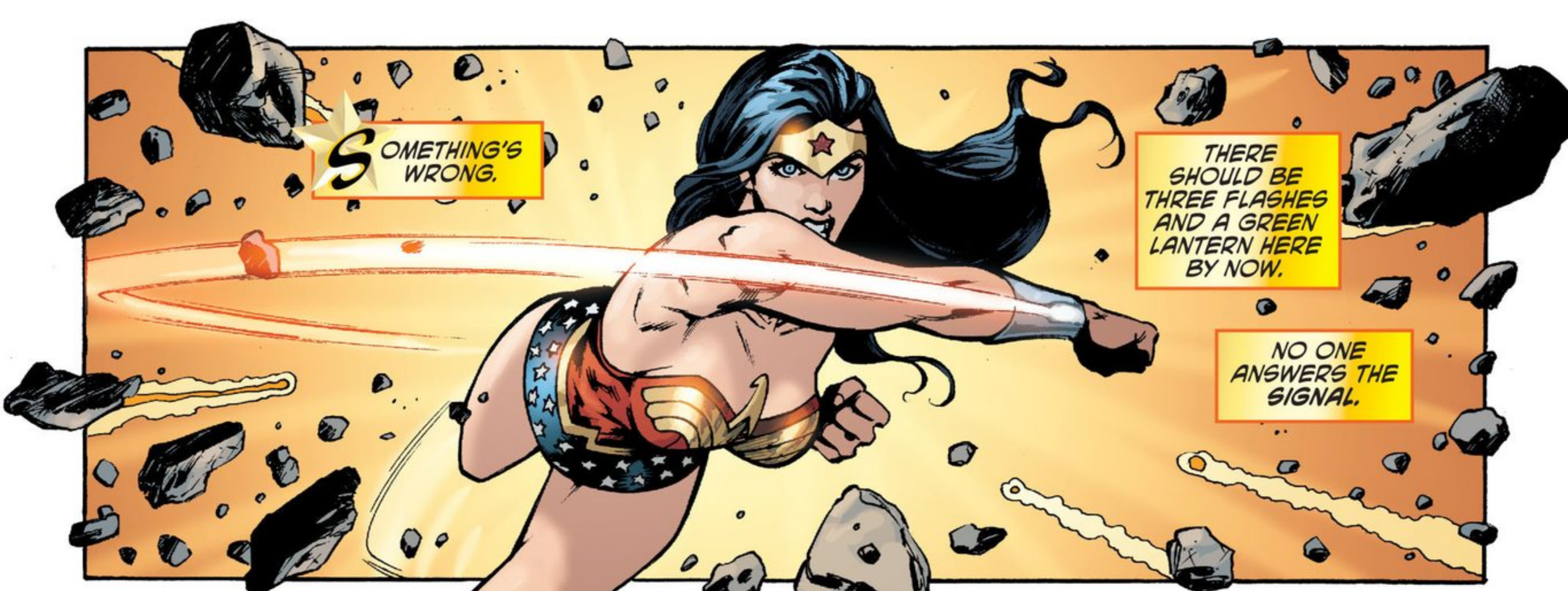


...BUT YOU THINK
YOU COULD MAYBE
GO GET MY GUNS
FOR ME?

OH,
AND...



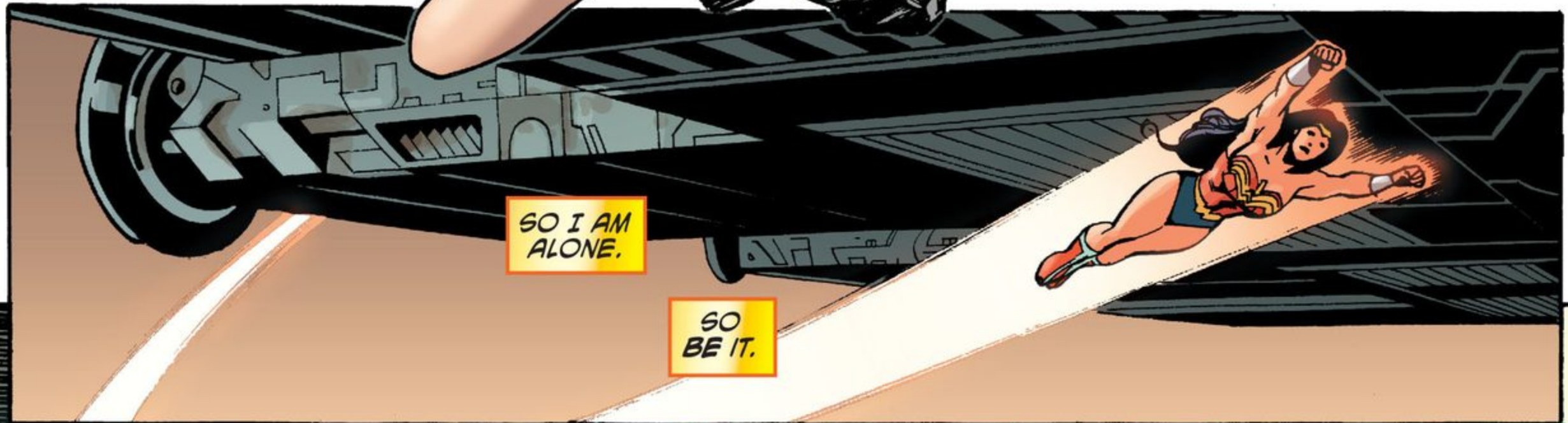
...MAYBE
SOME PANTS
WHILE YOU'RE
AT IT?



SOMETHING'S WRONG.

THERE SHOULD BE THREE FLASHES AND A GREEN LANTERN HERE BY NOW.

NO ONE ANSWERS THE SIGNAL.



SO I AM ALONE.

SO BE IT.



GUHHG!

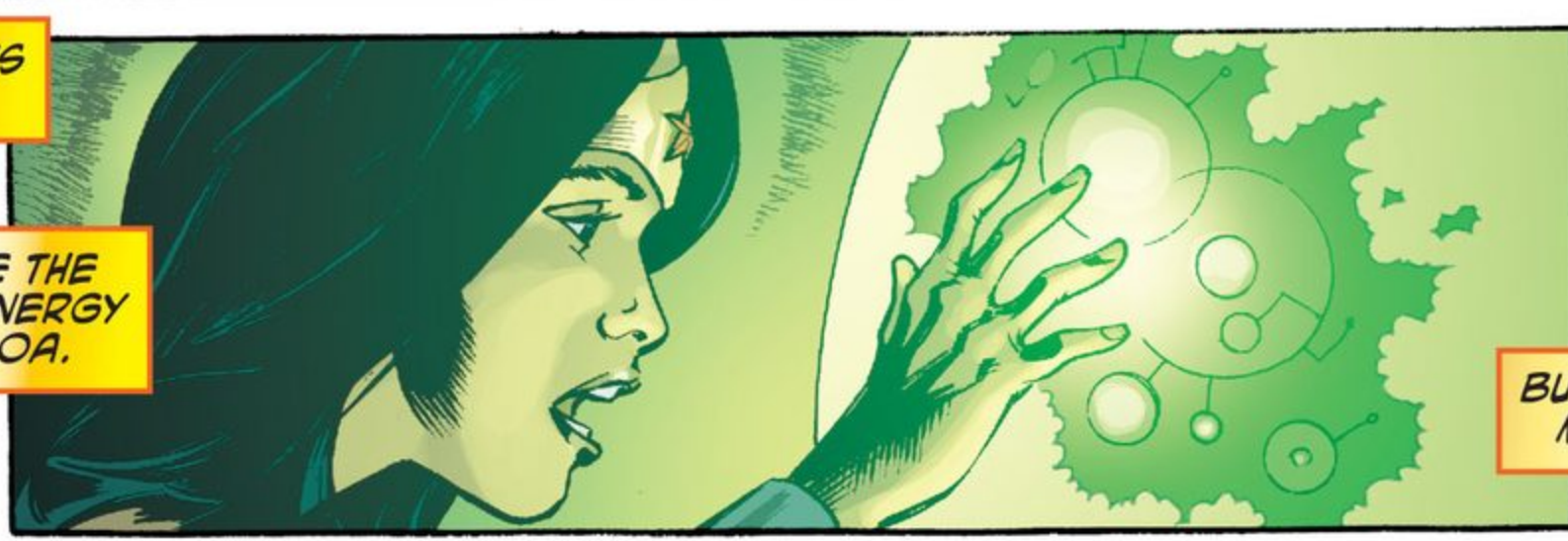
WE SEEM TO BE PRISONERS IN OUR OWN CITY, CHET.

THERE APPEARS TO BE A DEFINITE BARRIER AROUND THE CITY'S PERIMETER... POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE TRYING TO KEEP MOTORISTS FROM ATTEMPTING TO RAM THEIR WAY OUT, AS SEVERAL FATALITIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED.

FOR A CITY THAT'S ONLY RECENTLY RECOVERED FROM A SERIES OF RIOTS, THIS UNKNOWN WALL AND THE RADIO SILENCE FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD IS CAUSING A PANIC IN A POPULACE ALREADY TERRORIZED. TANSIE CHEN, WGBS NEWS.

I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE.

IT'S LIKE THE GREEN ENERGY FROM OA.



BUT... DIFFERENT. MALEVOLENT.



WHATEVER THEY'RE
USING, IT'S GOT
SOME LANTERN
ENERGY IN IT, SOMEHOW.

AND THAT
IS NOT...

... WELCOME
NEWS.

STILL...

... THE LEAST I
CAN DO IS GIVE
THEM A PROPER
WELCOME.



IT'S THE POLITE
THING TO DO.



MR. PRESIDENT,
WE HAVE TO GET TO
THE *BUNKERS*. YOUR
MILITARY ESCORT IS
ON ITS WAY.

PLEASE *MOVE*,
MR. PRESIDENT.



INCOMING.
GET DOWN. GET
COVER.



COVER THE
PRESIDENT!
COVER THE...



ST... STAY
BEHIND ME, MR.
PRESIDENT.

WHAT
ARE YOUR
DEMANDS?



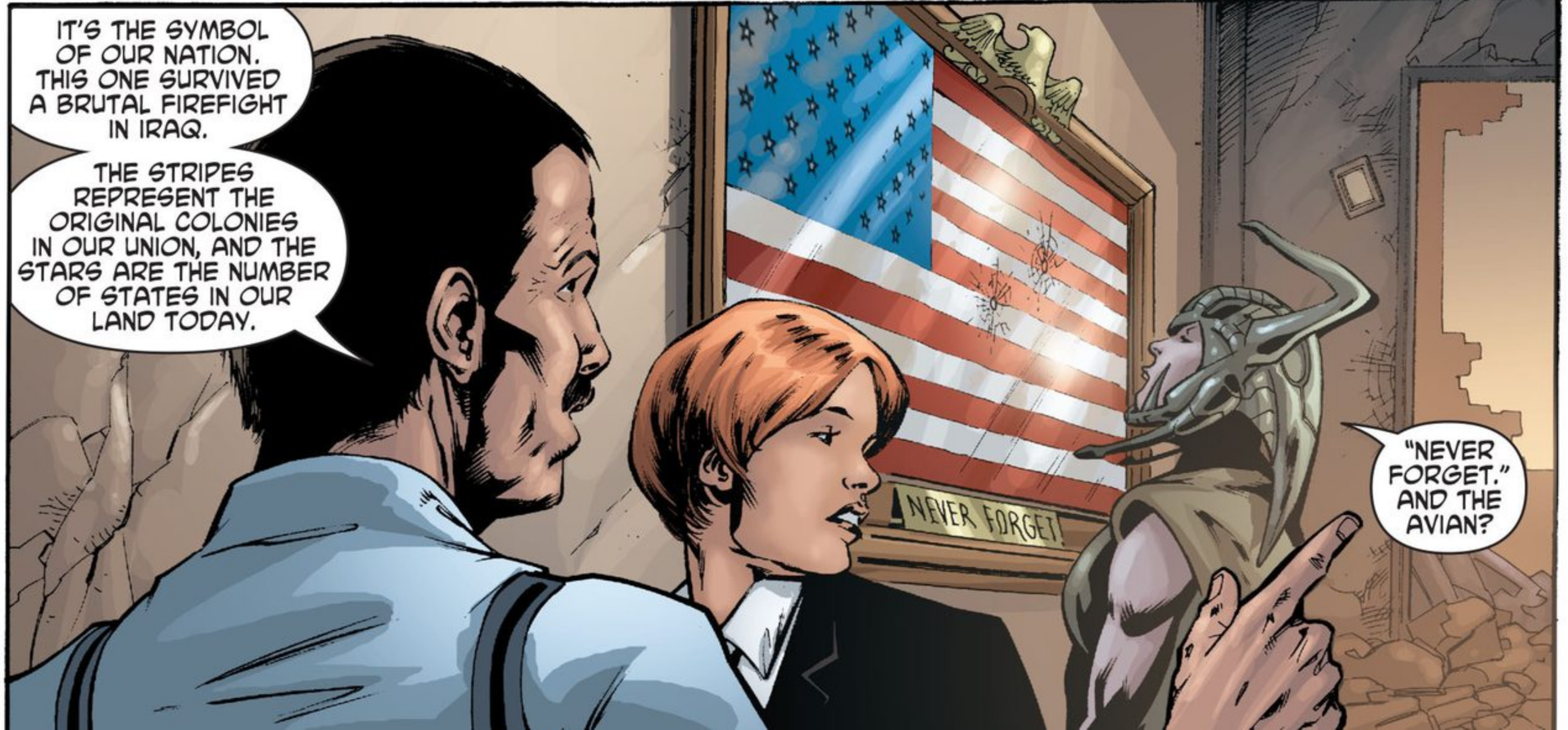
WE
HAVE NONE.
BUT THERE
IS A WAY FOR
YOUR WORLD TO
AT LEAST BE
REMEMBERED
WHEN WE ARE
DONE.

EXPLAIN
THIS BANNER
TO ME.

NEVER FORGET

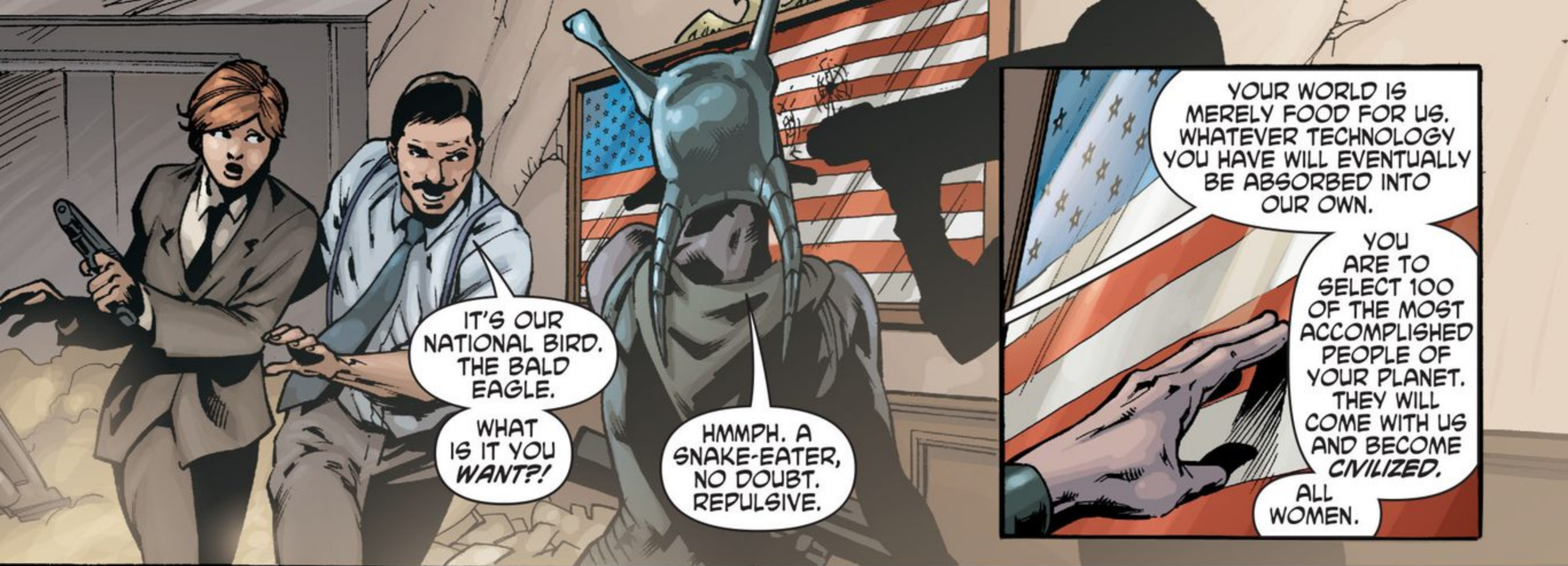
IT'S THE SYMBOL
OF OUR NATION.
THIS ONE SURVIVED
A BRUTAL FIREFIGHT
IN IRAQ.

THE STRIPES
REPRESENT THE
ORIGINAL COLONIES
IN OUR UNION, AND THE
STARS ARE THE NUMBER
OF STATES IN OUR
LAND TODAY.



"NEVER
FORGET." AND
THE AVIAN?

NEVER FORGET



IT'S OUR NATIONAL BIRD. THE BALD EAGLE.

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?!

HMMPH. A SNAKE-EATER, NO DOUBT. REPULSIVE.

YOUR WORLD IS MERELY FOOD FOR US. WHATEVER TECHNOLOGY YOU HAVE WILL EVENTUALLY BE ABSORBED INTO OUR OWN.

YOU ARE TO SELECT 100 OF THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED PEOPLE OF YOUR PLANET. THEY WILL COME WITH US AND BECOME CIVILIZED.

ALL WOMEN.



YOU WILL LIVE ON IN THEIR MEMORY.

YOU HAVE TWO HOURS TO SELECT YOUR SURVIVORS.

I'LL SHOOT. I'LL FIRE.



BLAM BLAM BLAM

HM.
NOT CITIZEN MATERIAL.



"NEVER FORGET."
WE OFFER YOU THAT CHANCE. TWO HOURS.



WELL.

WE KNOW THEY DON'T CARE MUCH FOR PLAYING FAIR.



THE MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED, CAPTAIN?

NEVER MIND THAT. IS THE THING IN HOLD 17 STILL SECURE?

YES, CAPTAIN. BUT THE FLYING WOMAN... SHE'S GIVING US SOME DIFFICULTY.

FIRE THE MAIN CANNON, CITIZEN.



OUR SHIPS AND PILOTS ARE STILL OUT THERE, CAPTAIN. IF YOU WILL ALLOW ME TO RECALL THEM FIRST--

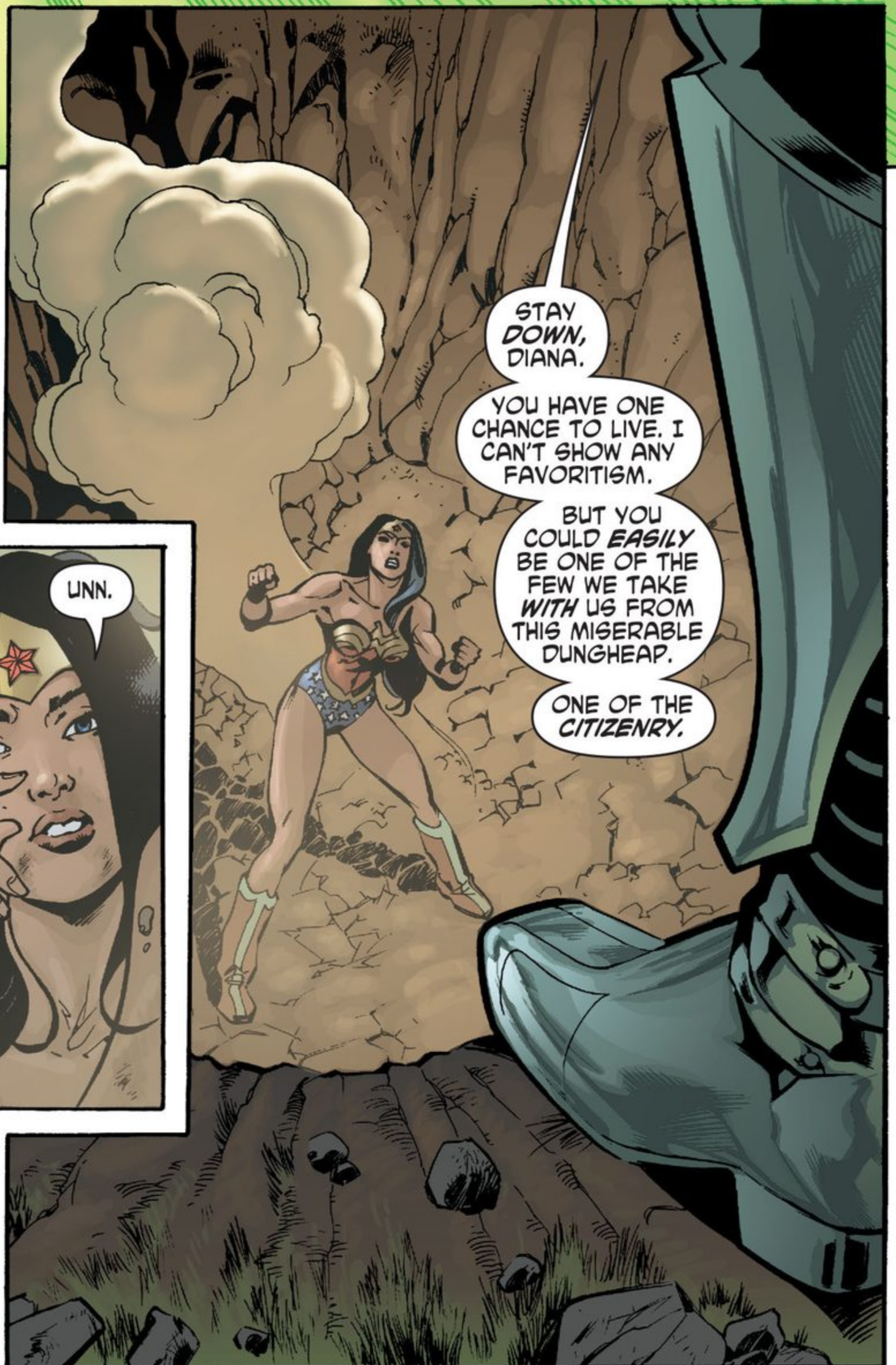
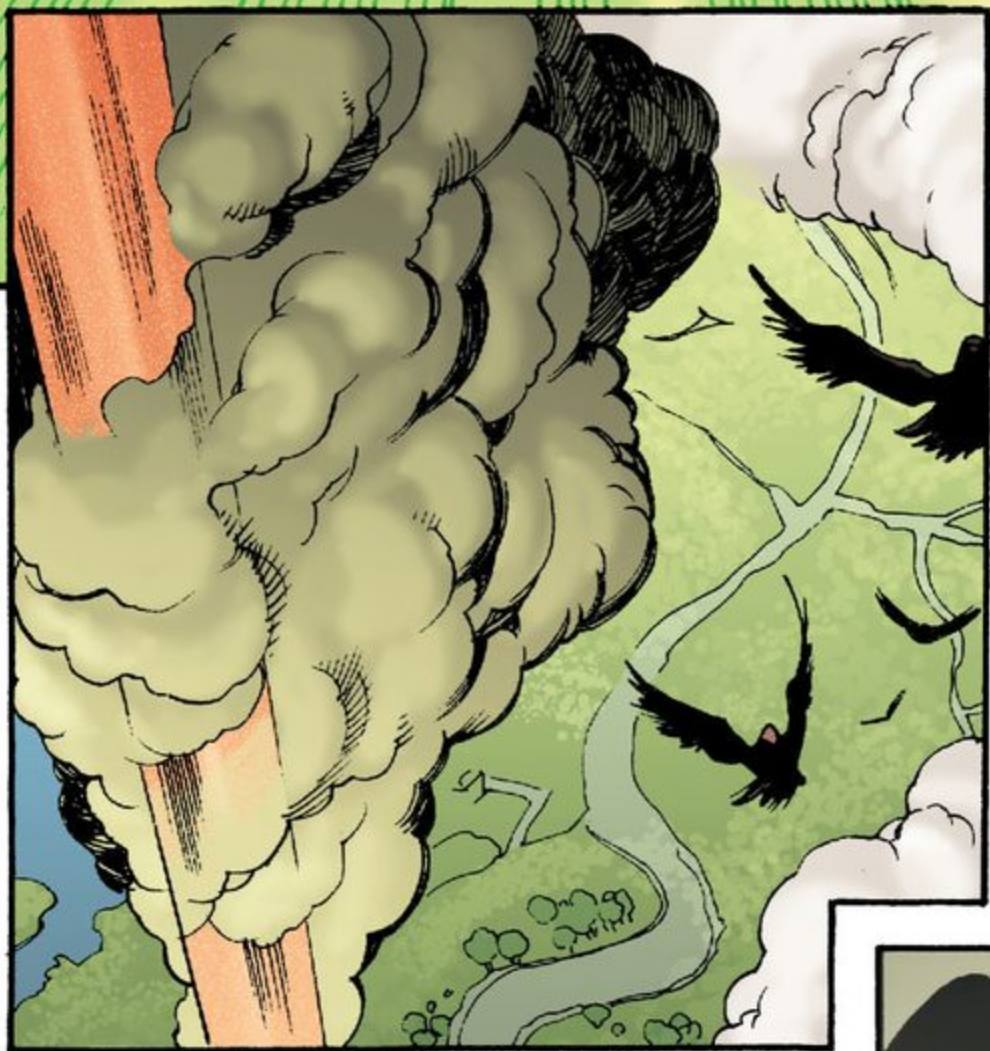
FIRE THE SLITHERING CANNON, LIEUTENANT!



THAT SOUND.



GGHHH.

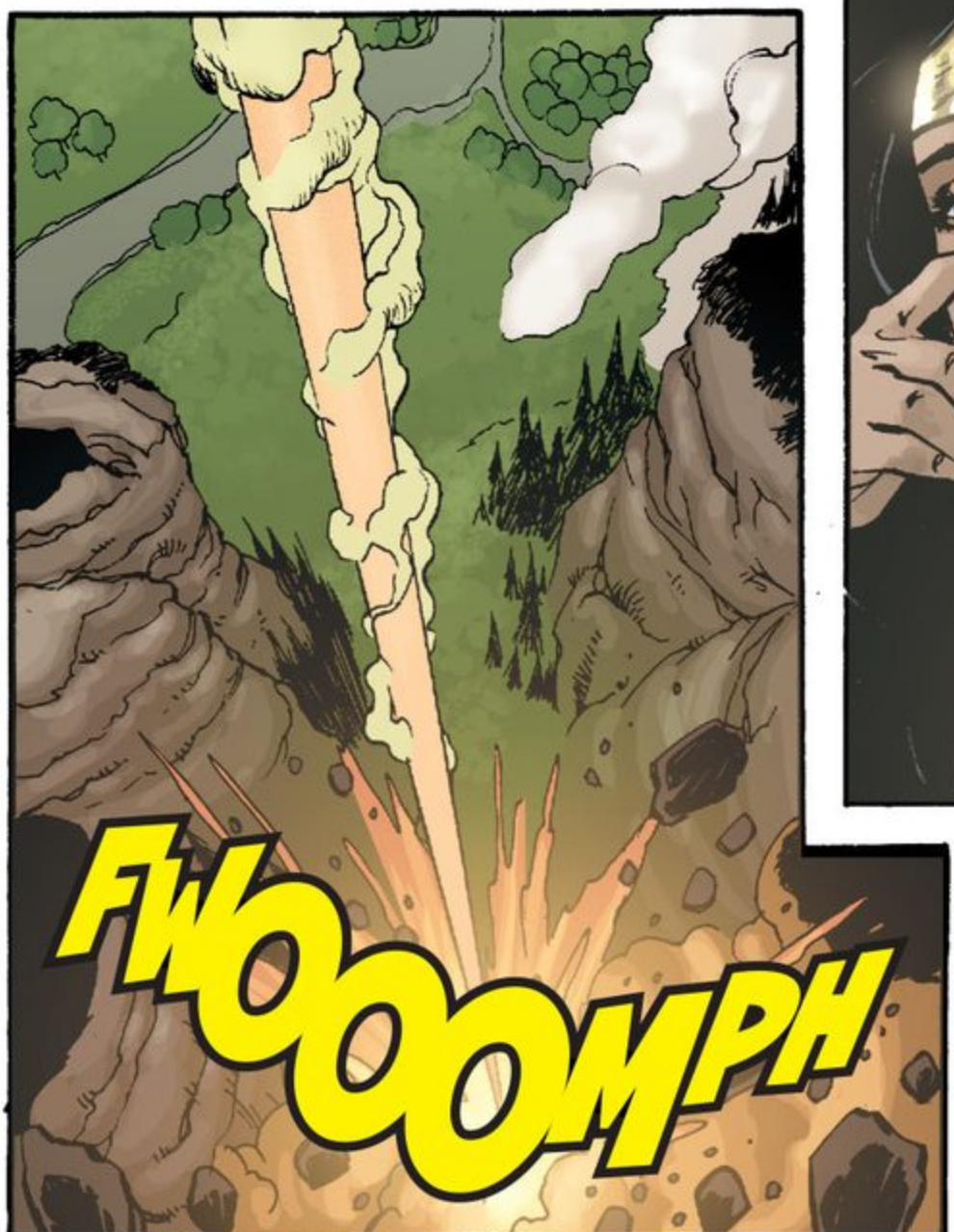


STAY
DOWN,
DIANA.

YOU HAVE ONE
CHANCE TO LIVE. I
CAN'T SHOW ANY
FAVORITISM.

BUT YOU
COULD *EASILY*
BE ONE OF THE
FEW WE TAKE
WITH US FROM
THIS MISERABLE
DUNGHEAP.

ONE OF THE
CITIZENRY.



UNN.

FWOOMP



YOU'RE A WOULD-BE CONQUEROR. I'M NOT IMPRESSED.

IS THAT WHAT I AM? IS THAT ALL YOU SEE IN ME, WARRIOR?



TAKE A GOOD LOOK.

MY EYES, DIANA. TAKE A LOOK IN MY EYES.

I AM THE ONE WHOM FORTUNE DID NOT FAVOR.



I AM YOUR AUNT, PRINCESS.

YOUR MOTHER IS MY SISTER!

**NEXT:
BLOOD
RED AND
BONE
DEEP!**



43
JUN '10

**SIMONE
SCOTT
DAGNINO
HAZLEWOOD
BIT**

Wonder Woman

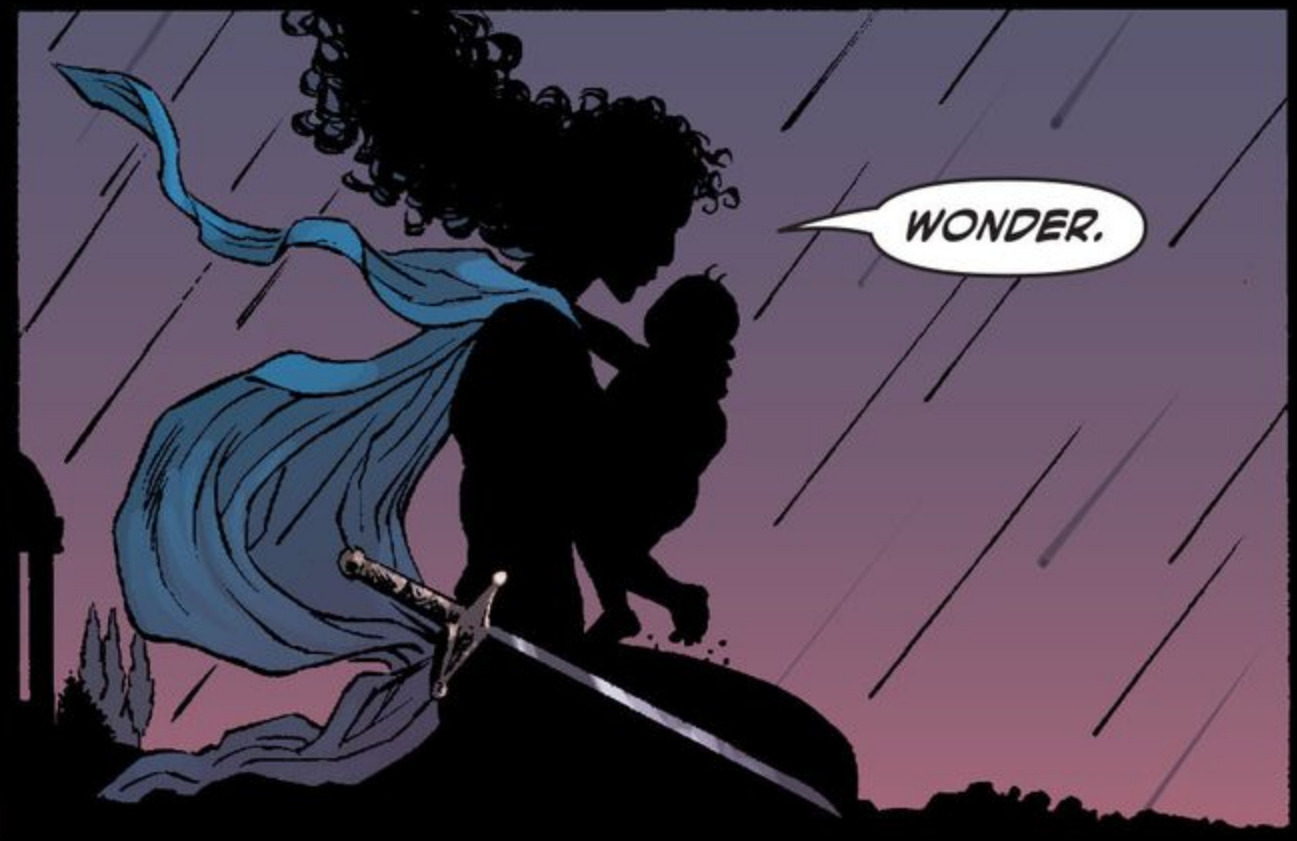






BEFORE...

MIRACLE. OH, MIRACLE.



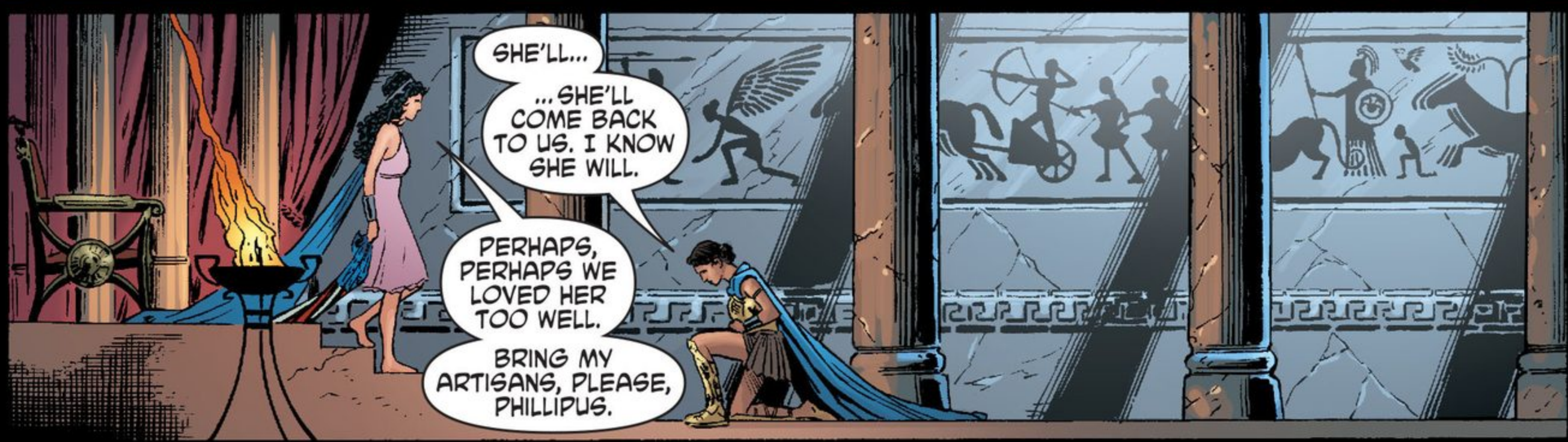
WONDER.



SHE'S LEAVING US.

I KNOW.

SO SOON. HOW COULD IT BE SO SOON?



SHE'LL...

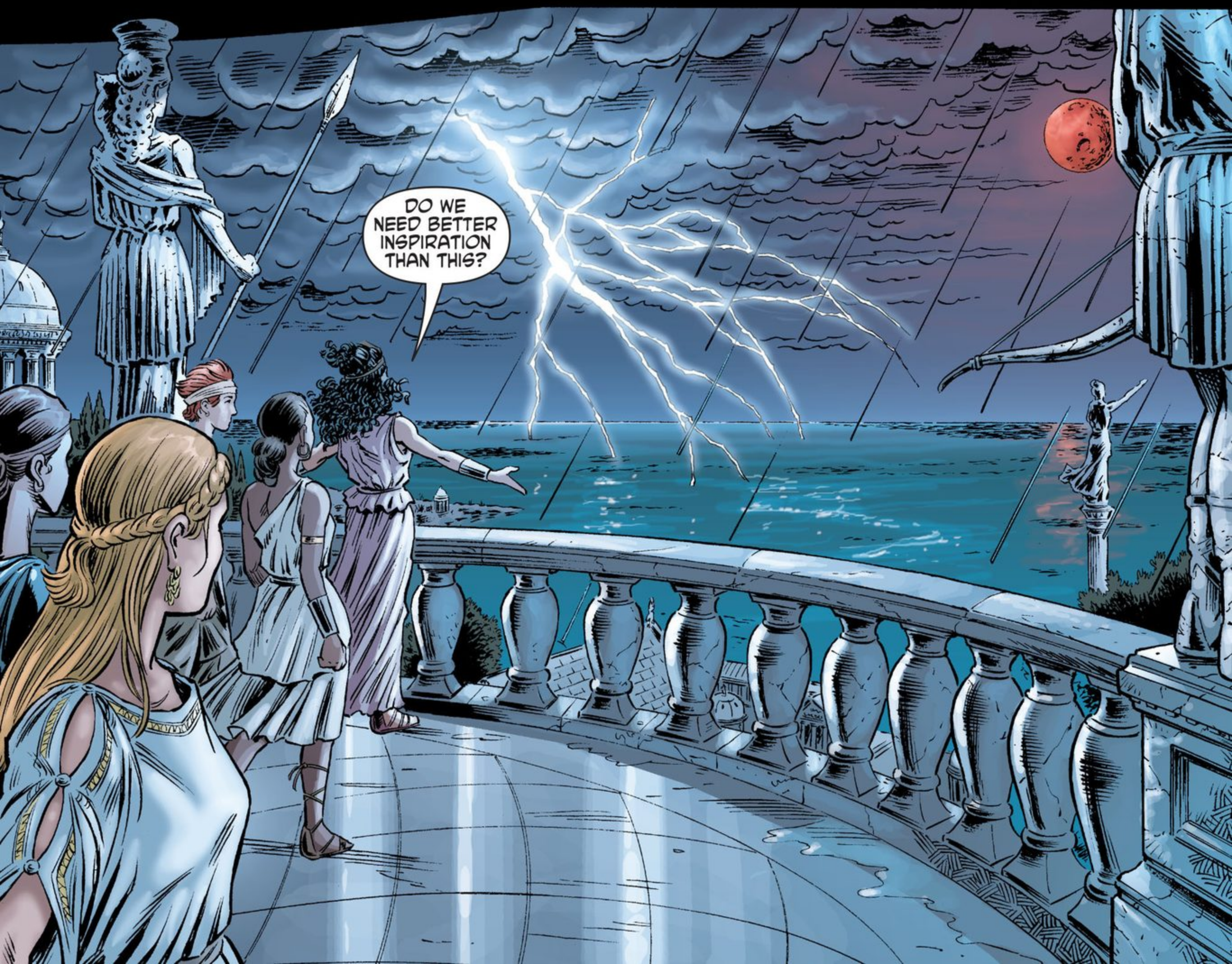
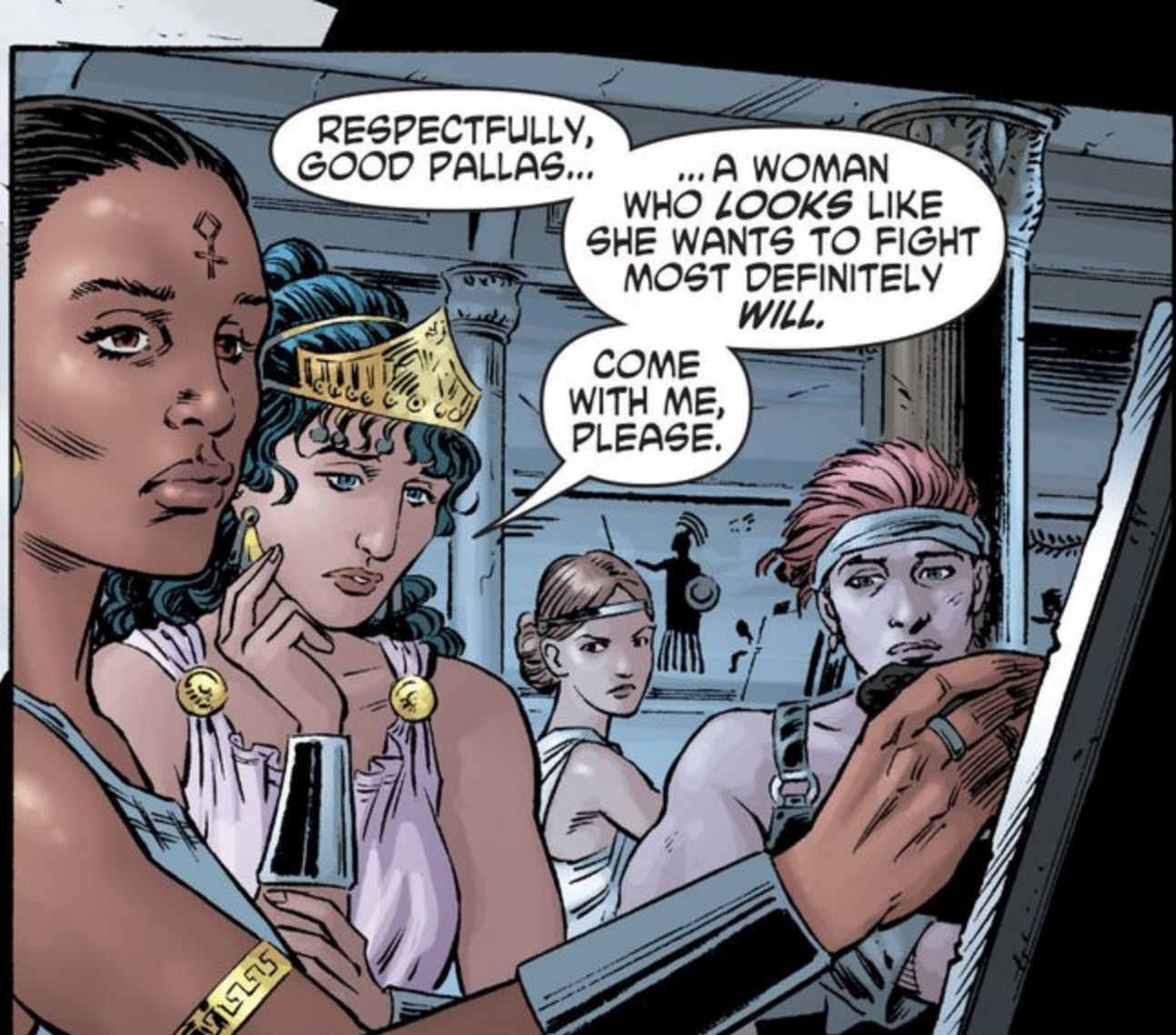
... SHE'LL COME BACK TO US. I KNOW SHE WILL.

PERHAPS, PERHAPS WE LOVED HER TOO WELL.

BRING MY ARTISANS, PLEASE, PHILLIPUS.



OUR DAUGHTER WILL NEED SOMETHING TO WEAR.





SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE HUNTER'S MOON. SHE WILL WEAR HER CRIMSON.

CASSIOPEIA IS HER CONSTELLATION, THE W, THE CROWN, AND WHITE-HOT STARS ON A FIELD OF DEEP BLUE.

AS ALWAYS, WE TAKE FROM ABOVE, AND NEVER BELOW.



MY QUEEN. I'M SORRY, BUT WHY AM I HERE?

I HAVE A SPECIAL TASK FOR YOU, DEAR, PASSIONATE IO.



ATHENA REPRESENTS OUR GODS, WATCHING OVER US IN THE SHAPE OF ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL FLYING CREATURE.

YOU ARE TO FORGE A BREASTPLATE.



PLEASE. PLEASE, CAN'T YOU...

CAN'T YOU MAKE HER STAY?

MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS MUST EVENTUALLY BE PARTED, FORGEMISTRESS. OR THEY ARE NOT REALLY MOTHERS AT ALL.



IT IS THE WORST NIGHT IN OUR TIME. WE LOSE OUR PRINCESS.

NO.

WE SIMPLY GIVE HER BACK TO THE SKY.

WRATH OF THE SILVER SERPENT

Part 2 of 3 BLOOD/RED AND BONE/DEEP

Written by GAIL SIMONE

Pencilled by NICOLA SCOTT and FERNANDO DAGNINO

Inked by DOUG HAZLEWOOD, WAYNE FAUCHER, and BIT

Additional digital inks by BRAD ANDERSON

Colored by BRAD ANDERSON

Lettered by TRAVIS LANHAM

Associate edited by SEAN RYAN

Edited by BRIAN CUNNINGHAM

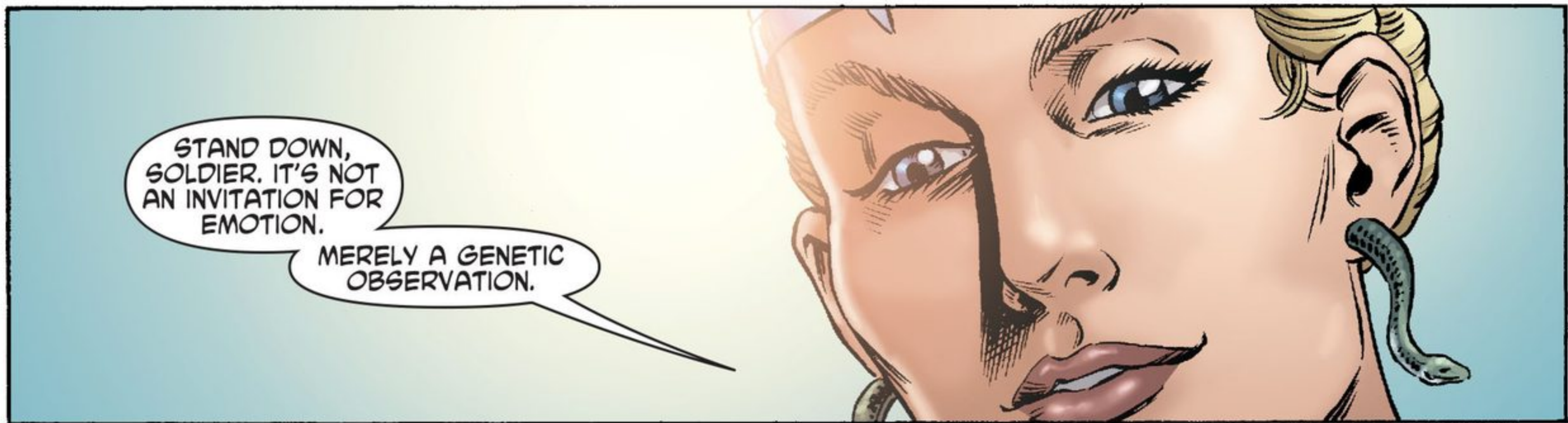
WONDER/WOMAN created by
WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

YOU HAVE
YOUR MOTHER'S
EYES.

I HAVE
MANY TRAITS
MY MOTHER
GAVE ME.

PERHAPS
I'LL IMPOSE
SOME UPON
YOU.







CAPTAIN
ASTARTE! SHE
ESCAPES!

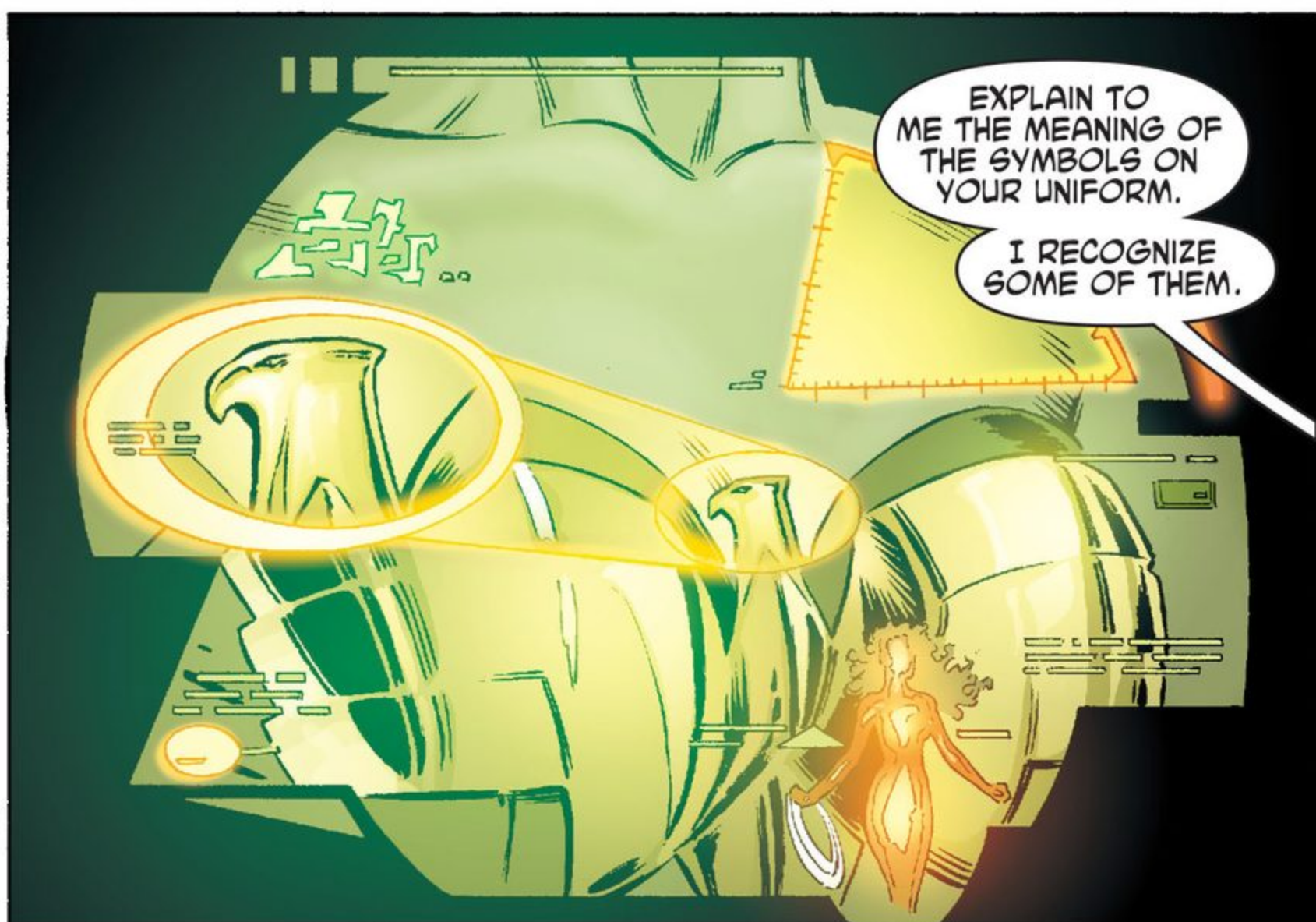
HOLD
YOUR FIRE,
CITIZEN.



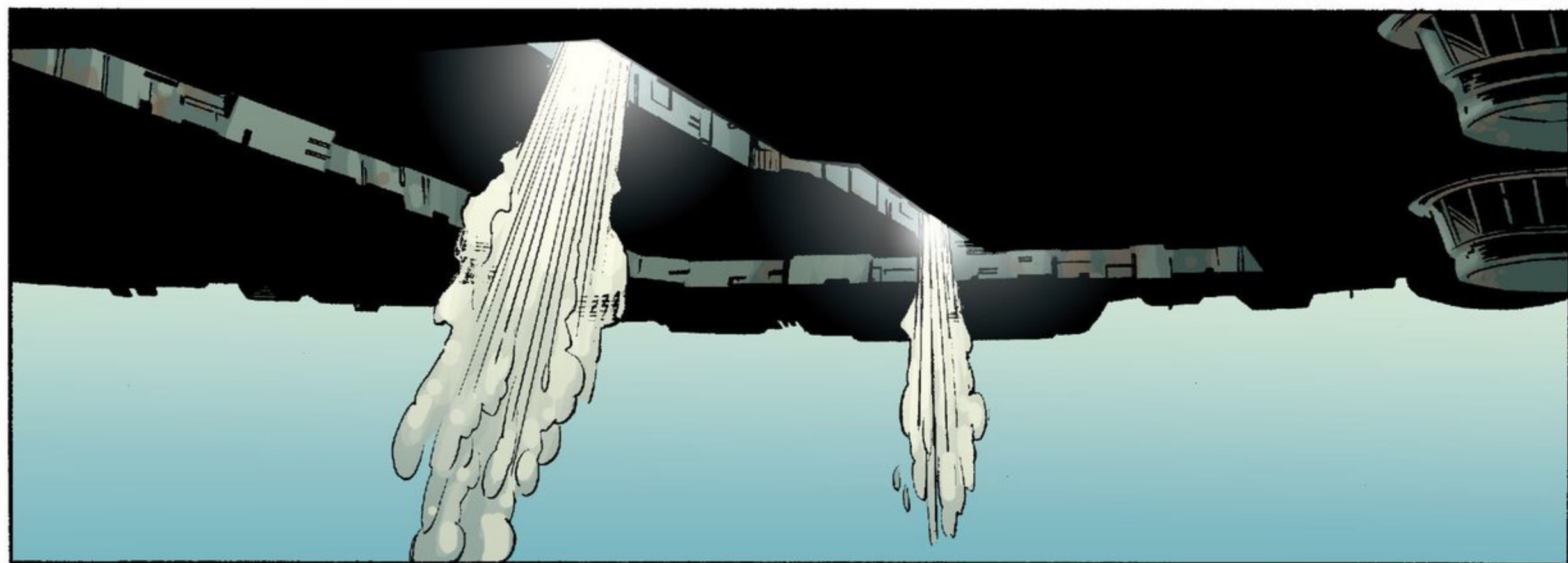
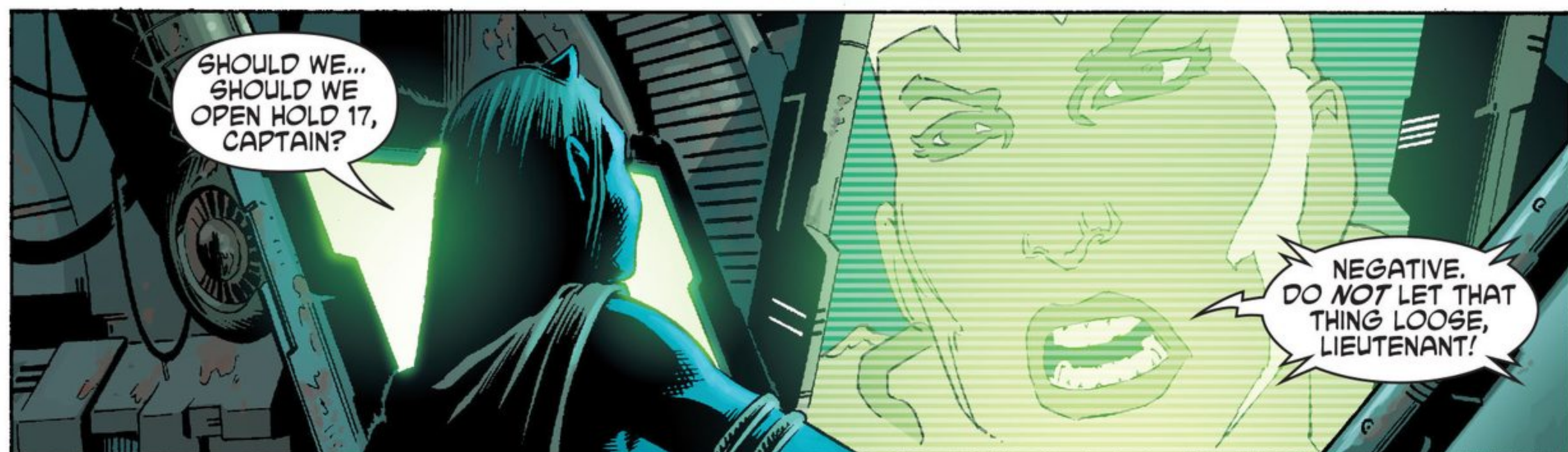
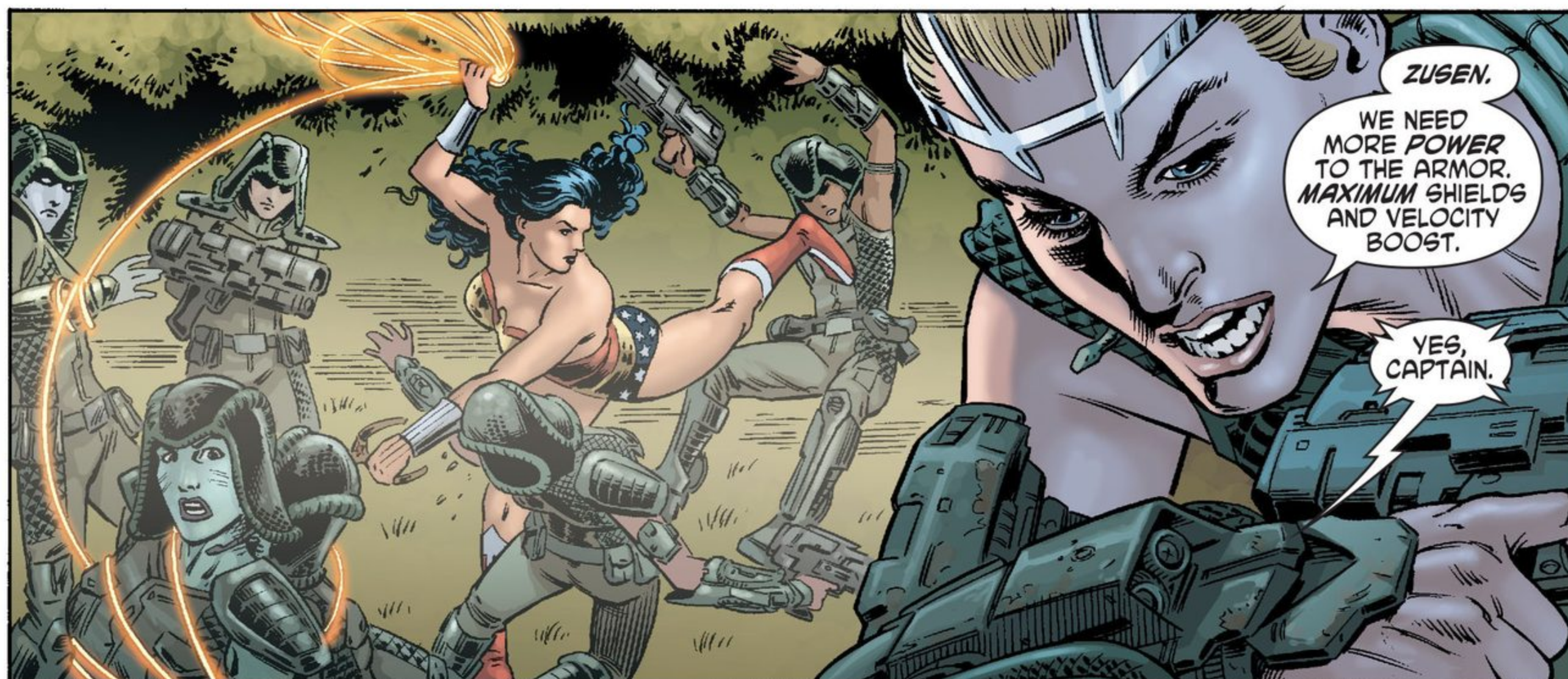
TAKE
YOUR SOLDIERS,
YOUR GUNS, AND
YOUR SHIP AND
LEAVE.

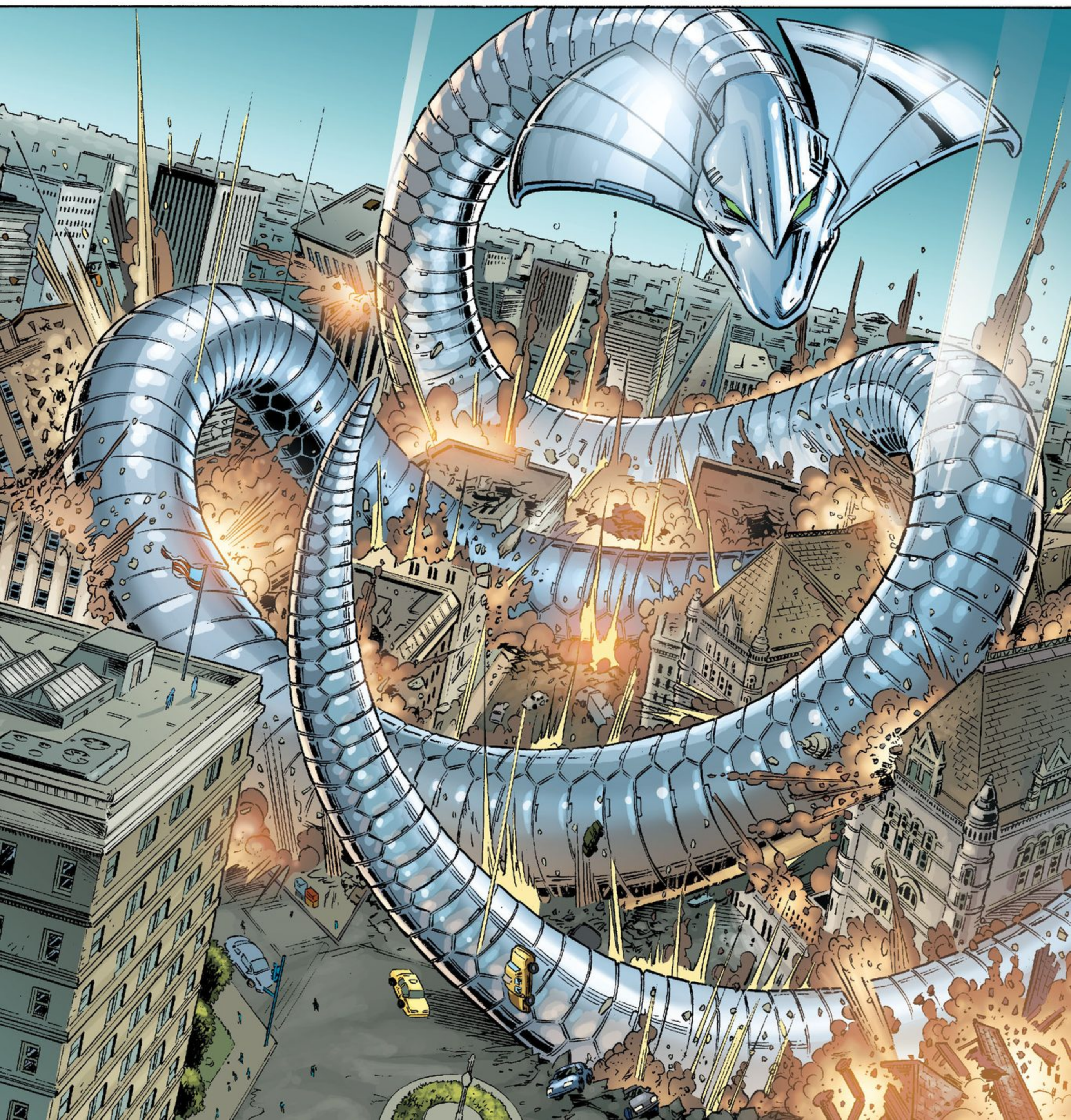
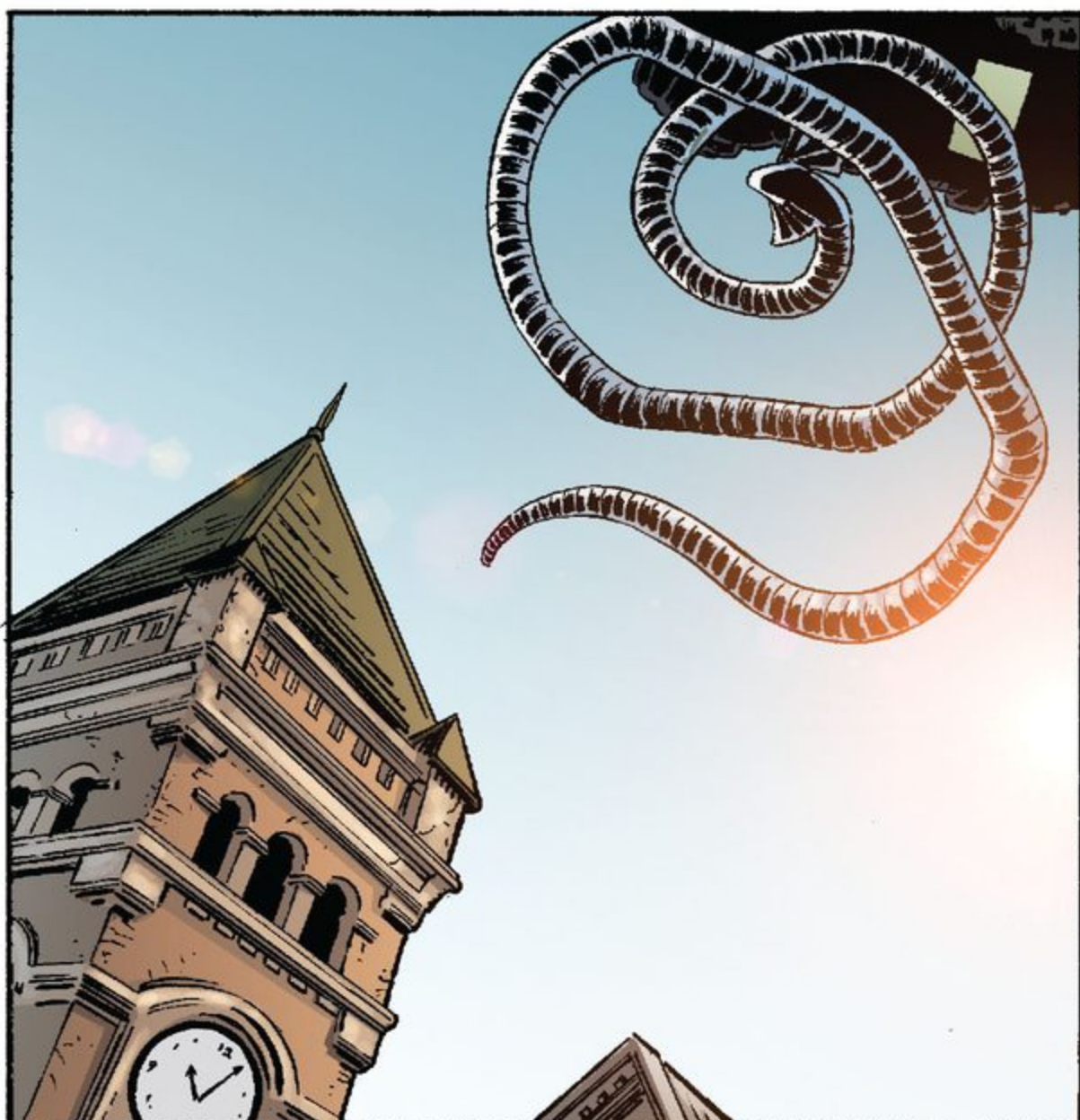
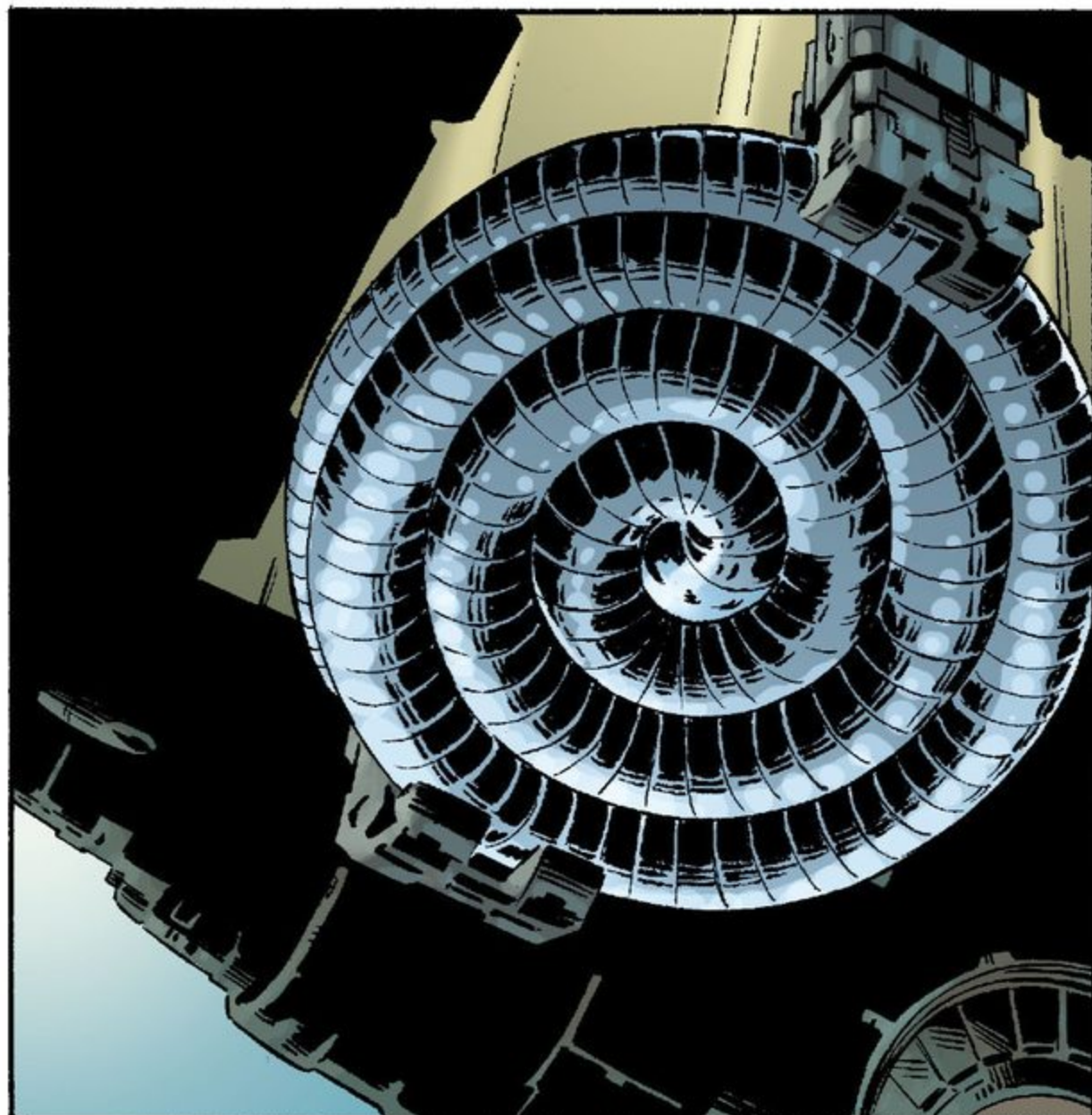
OR
I'LL MAKE
YOU NOTHING
BUT A BAD
MEMORY.

"AUNTIE."





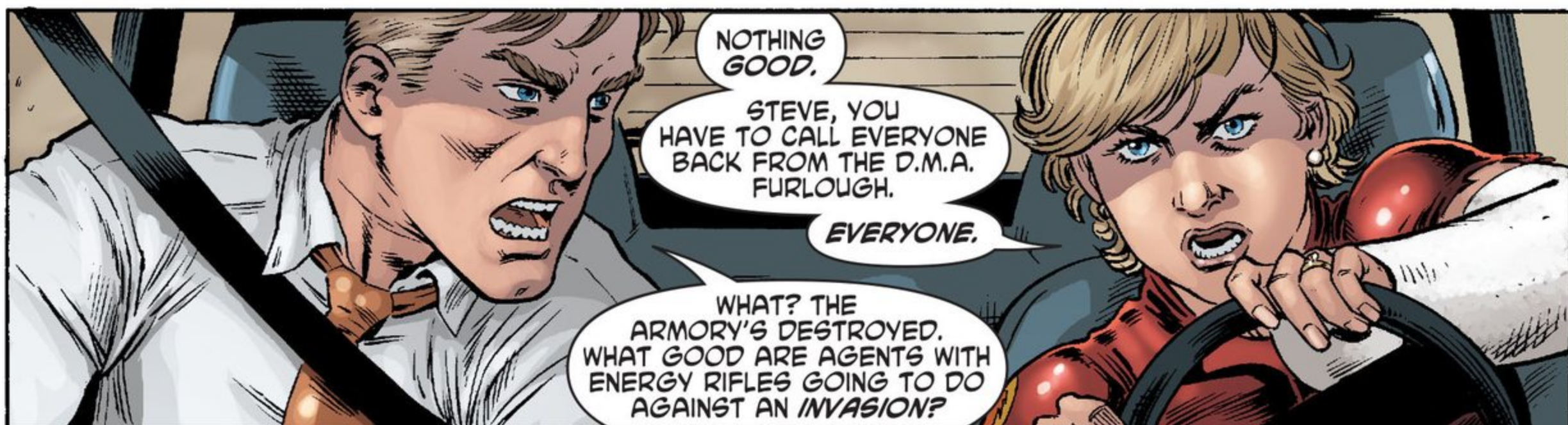






WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

I'M SORRY FOR MY SINS LORD



NOTHING GOOD.

STEVE, YOU HAVE TO CALL EVERYONE BACK FROM THE D.M.A. FURLOUGH.

EVERYONE.

WHAT? THE ARMORY'S DESTROYED. WHAT GOOD ARE AGENTS WITH ENERGY RIFLES GOING TO DO AGAINST AN INVASION?



STEVE. NO ONE'S GETTING OUT, AND NO ONE'S GETTING IN.

THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP ARE THOSE ALREADY INSIDE THE FENCE.

SO WHERE ARE WE GOING, ETTA?



TO GET SOME HELP.

WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE?



NONE, SWEETIE.

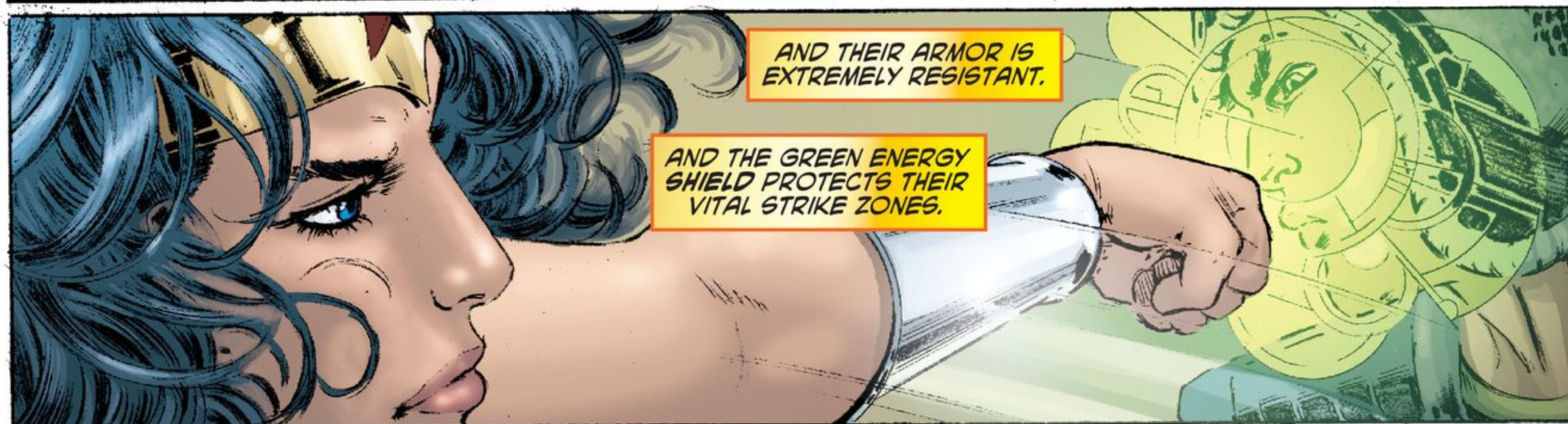
I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING.



NOW GET ME TO SOMETHING THAT FLIES.

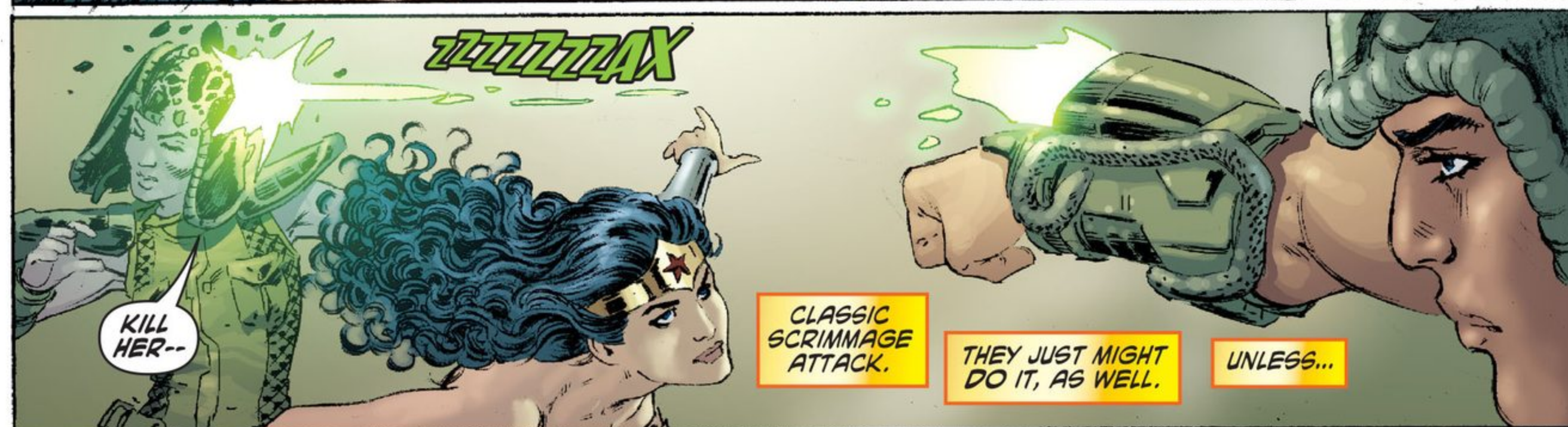


THEY'RE FAST.
VERY FAST.



AND THEIR ARMOR IS
EXTREMELY RESISTANT.

AND THE GREEN ENERGY
SHIELD PROTECTS THEIR
VITAL STRIKE ZONES.



KILL
HER--

ZZZZZZAX

CLASSIC
SCRIMMAGE
ATTACK.

THEY JUST MIGHT
DO IT, AS WELL.

UNLESS...



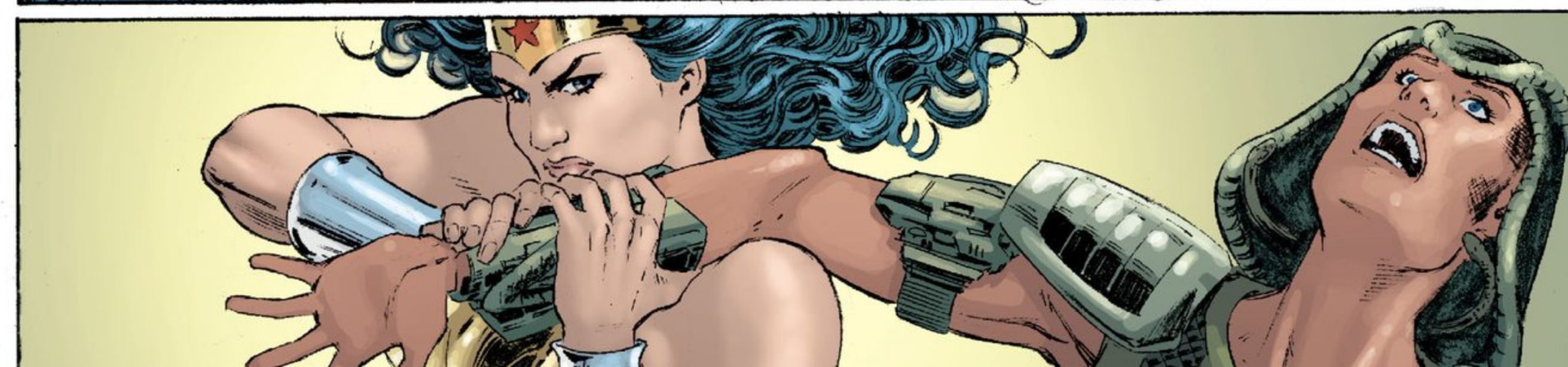
INTERESTING.

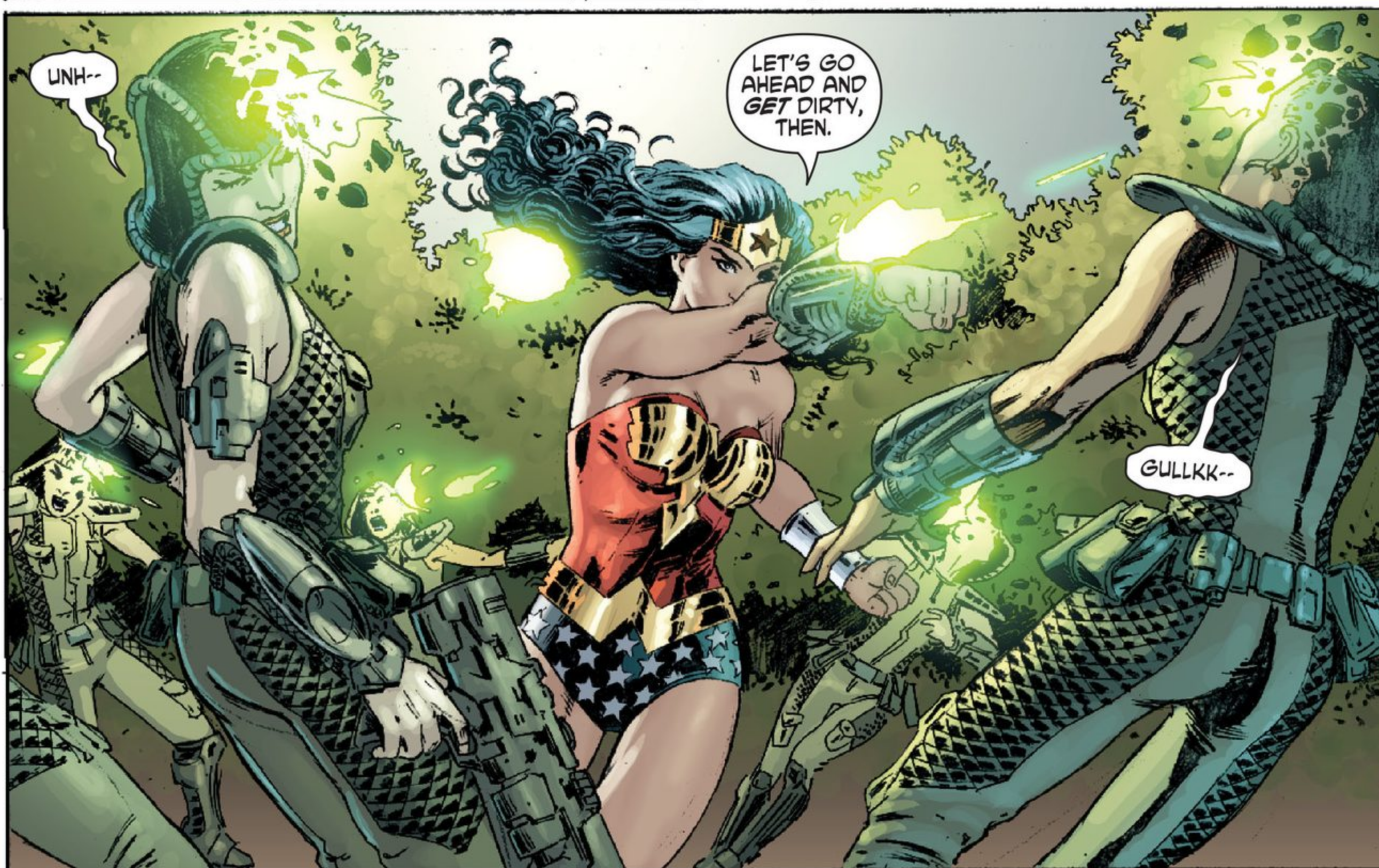
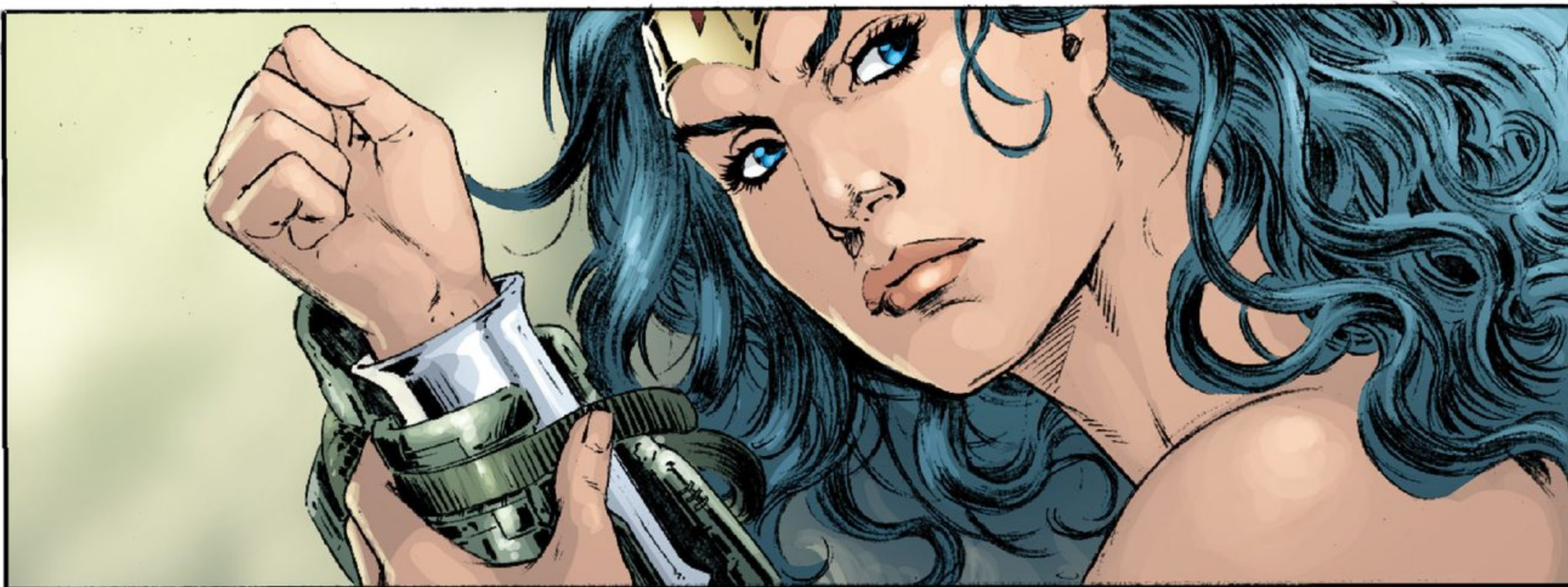


VERY
WELL.

THEY
FIGHT
DIRTY.

I CAN
DO THAT.





LIEUTENANT ZUSEN. WE NEED MORE SHOCK TROOPS.

PREPARE TO LAUNCH EVERYTHING.

LEVEL THIS PITIFUL ASSEMBLAGE OF MUD PEOPLE!

SOMEONE TAUGHT THESE WOMEN HOW NOT TO SCREAM.

I DON'T WANT THIS WOMAN TO SHARE MY BLOOD.



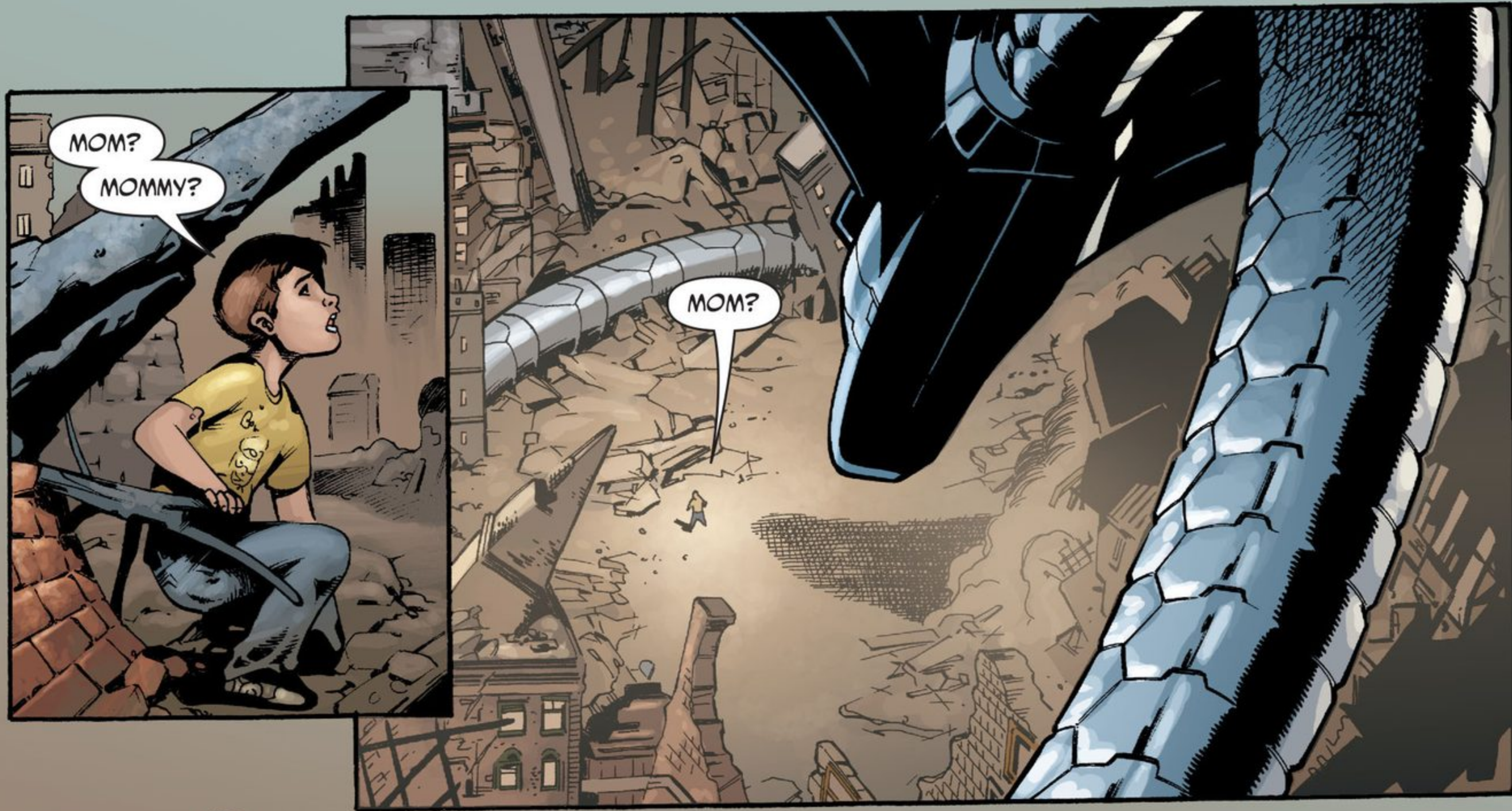
AND A LOT OF IT WILL BE SPILLED BEFORE I LET HER DESTROY MY HOME.

ASTARTE!



SISTER OF MY MOTHER OR NO...

SHE'S ABOUT TO SEE THE BAD SIDE OF THEMYSKIRA'S PRINCESS.



INFANT,
I ASK YOU.

HAVE YOU
NO ARMS, TO
CLIMB?

HAVE
YOU NO
TOES, TO
GRIP?

MIRADA, THE
INFANT IS COVERED
IN HIS MOTHER'S
SPOOR.

FIND HER
AND RETURN
HIM. UNLESS
SHE IS...

I UNDERSTAND,
GREAT TOLIFHAR.
I OBEY.

WE CALLED
OUT WHAT LITTLE
ROLLING STOCK THE
D.M.A. STILL HAS IN THE
WAY OF TANKS, BUT WE
DON'T HAVE *ANYTHING*
THAT CAN TAKE *THAT*
THING DOWN.

AND WE
CAN'T COUNT
ON ANYONE FROM
OUTSIDE THE HOT
ZONE FOR
HELP. IDEAS?

WELL,
I MIGHT
HAVE ONE,
LT. COLONEL
CANDY.

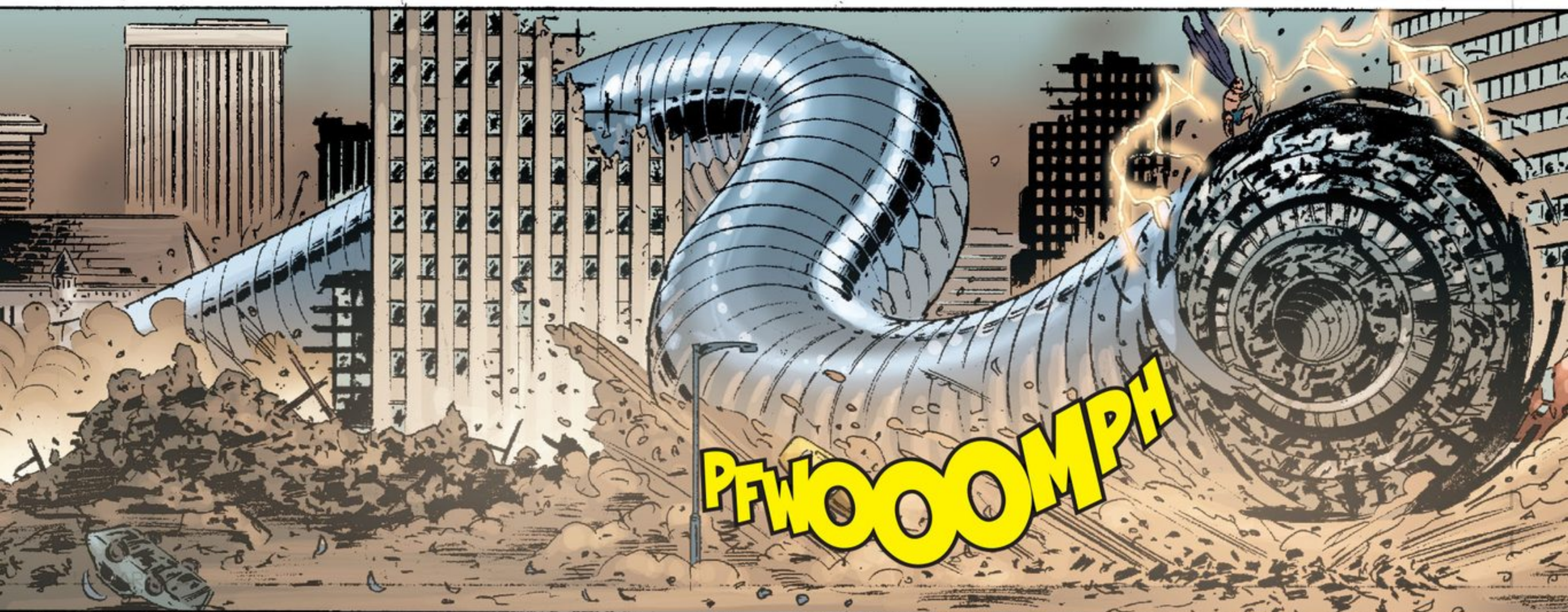
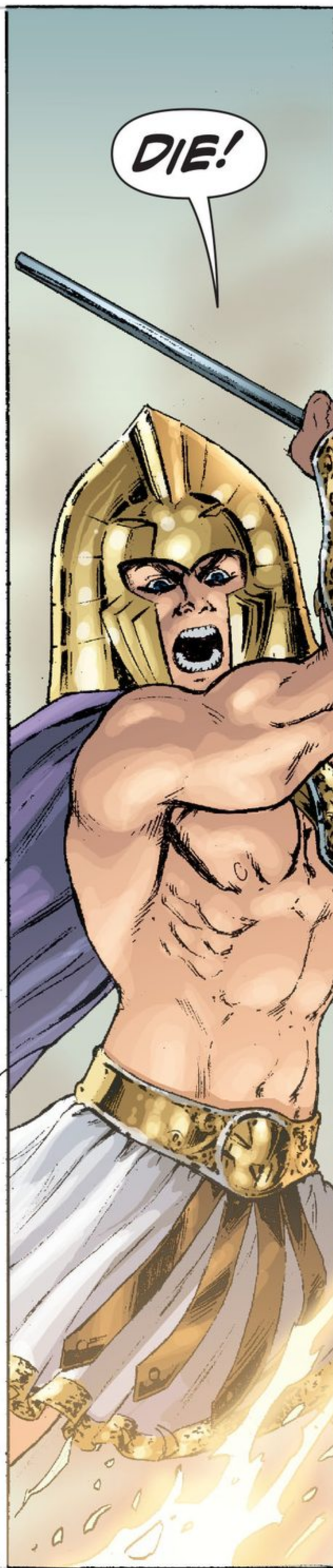
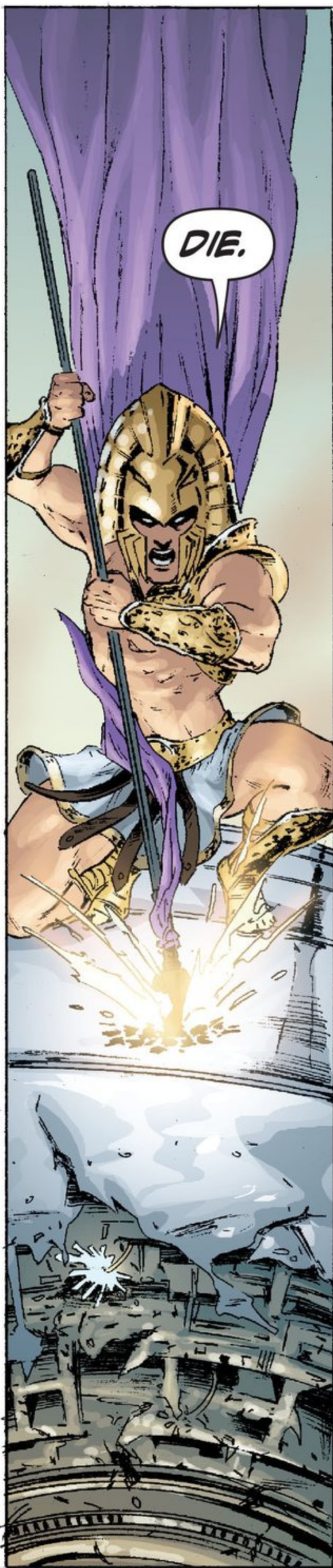
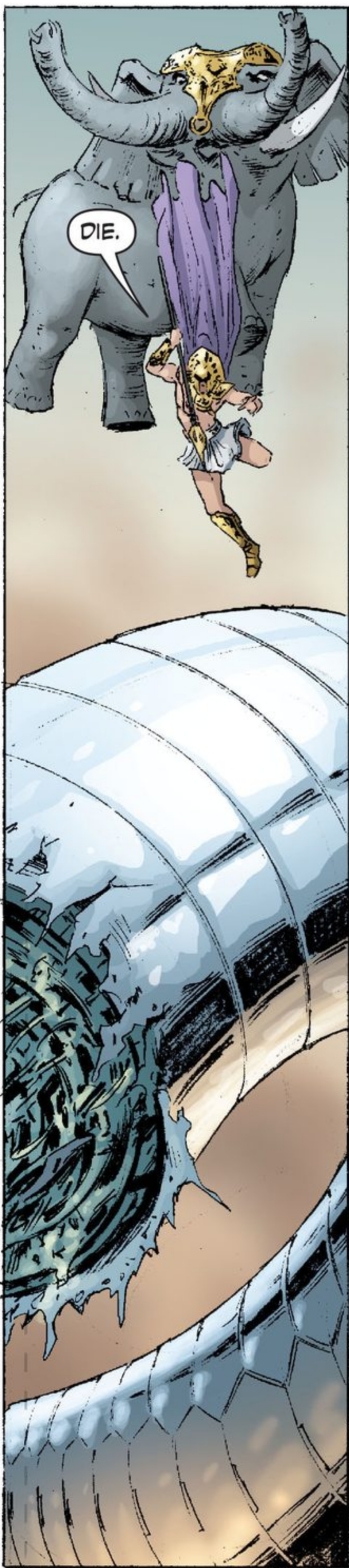
"I THINK WE'RE
FORGETTING THE ELEPHANT
IN THE ROOM."

CURSED
SERPENT!
ILL-BEGOTTEN
SPAWN OF
A HYDRA'S
BACKSIDE!



ACHILLES
SENDS YOU BACK
TO THE APERTURE
OF YOUR GOD-
BESPITTED
BIRTH!







UH...
MR. ACHILLES?
SIR?

WE'RE
FRIENDS OF
DIANA'S?



AND FRANKLY,
SHE NEVER
SAID YOU HAD
THAT KIND OF
STRENGTH.

...
MY STRENGTH
IS PROPORTIONAL
TO MY CONVICTION
IN BATTLE. I WAS
CONFLICTED
PREVIOUSLY.

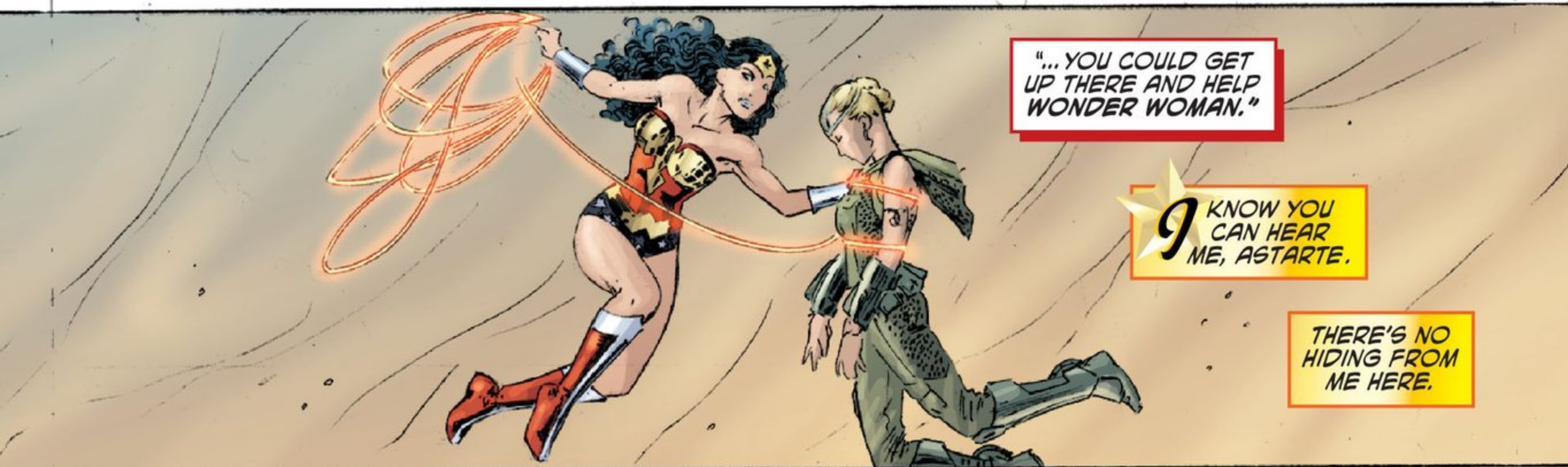
NO
LONGER.

I DON'T
KNOW THIS
WORLD, FRIEND
OF DIANA.



WHAT DO I DO
TO STOP THIS... THIS
ABOMINATION?

WELL, FOR A
START...



"... YOU COULD GET
UP THERE AND HELP
WONDER WOMAN."

I KNOW YOU
CAN HEAR
ME, ASTARTE.

THERE'S NO
HIDING FROM
ME HERE.



WHO CLAIMS
I'M HIDING? THE
CITIZENRY DO
NOT *HIDE*.

JUST
SURVEYING THE
NEW BATTLEGROUND,
DAUGHTER OF MY
SISTER.



WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT SORT OF
TACTIC?

NO TACTIC.
YOU ARE IN MY
LASSO.

THESE ARE
SHADOWS OF
YOUR LIFE.

I CAN'T CONTROL
THEM. THE TRUTH IS A
RIVER THAT WILL NOT
BE DAMMED.



WE'VE
COME FOR OUR
TRIBUTE.

THE CITIZENRY
WERE DIFFERENT
IN THOSE DAYS.
COMPASSIONATE.

WEAK.

THEY
WOULD
TAKE ONE
HUNDRED
EXCEPTIONAL
FEMALES
FROM EACH
PLANET,
RESTOCK
PROVISIONS,
AND
LEAVE.



STOP! YOU
CAN'T HAVE
HER!

THEY
DIDN'T WANT
ME. THEY
WANTED THE
ONLY THING
I'D EVER
LOVED.

MY BABY
SISTER.

HIPPOLYTA.



I WILL GO, IN
HER PLACE.

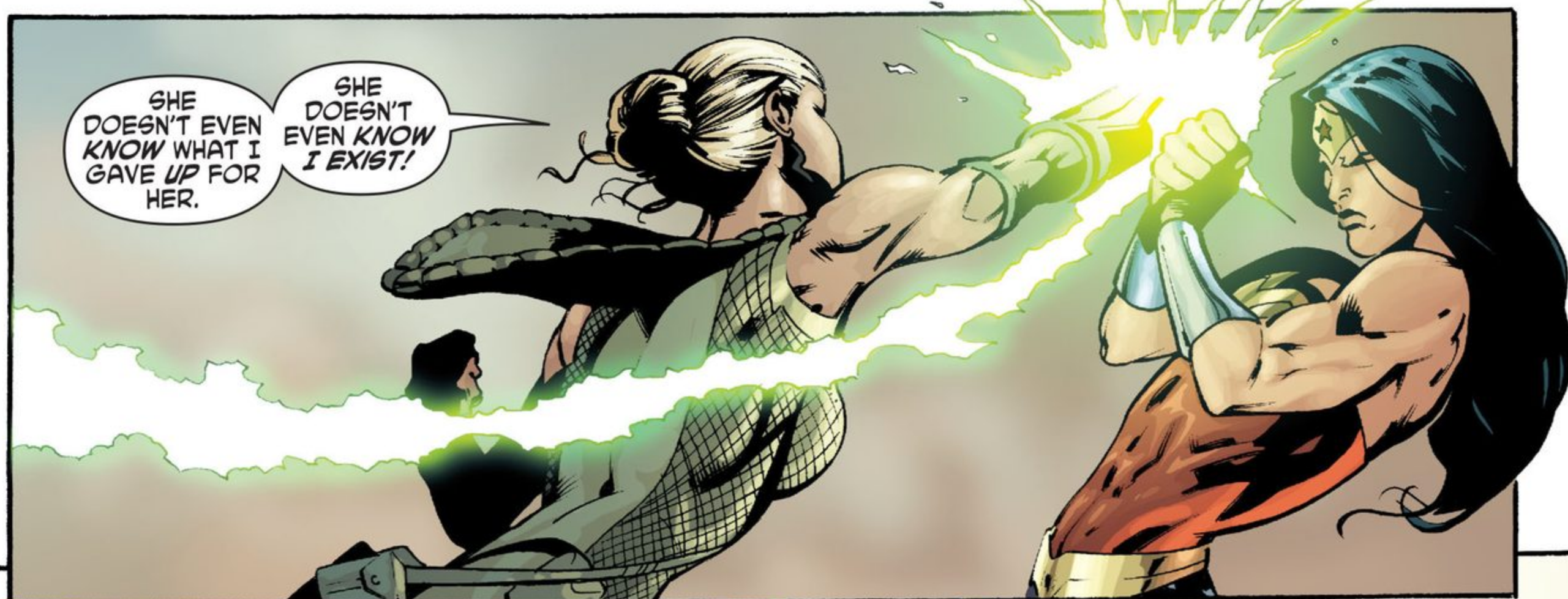
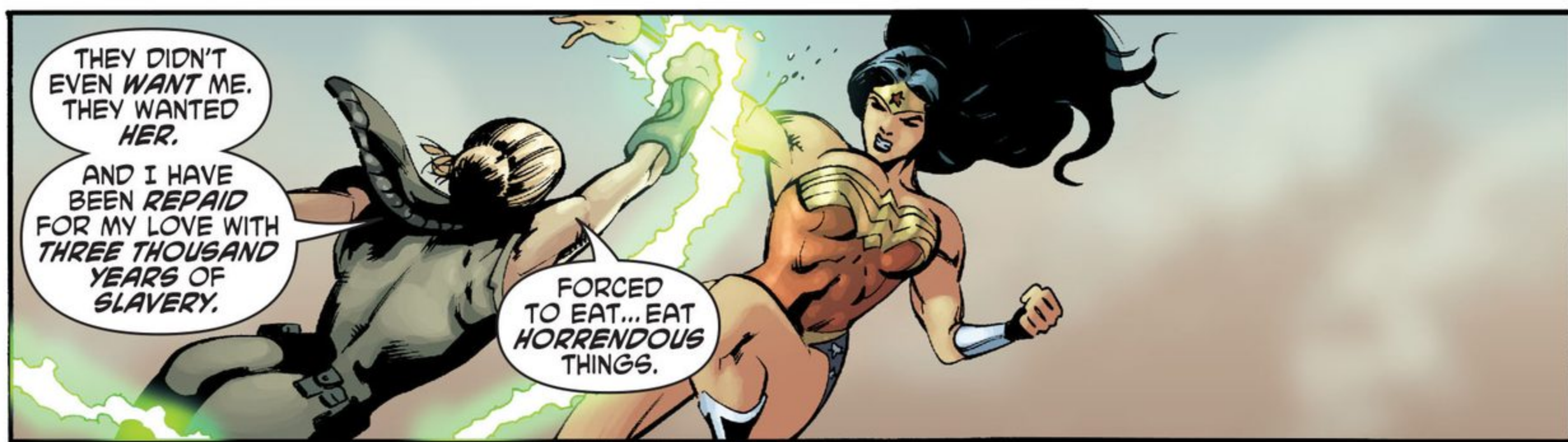
WILL
SHE... WILL SHE
REMEMBER
ME?

SHE
WILL REMEMBER
NOTHING BEFORE
THIS NIGHT, CHILD.
I AM SORRY. IT IS
OUR WAY TO HEAL
SOME OF THE HURT
OF THOSE LEFT
BEHIND.

WHY?



WHY DID
YOU MAKE ME
REMEMBER?





I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR FEEDING AND FUELING THAT FLEET.

A PLANET'S WORTH OF PEOPLE, UNWELCOME ANYWHERE.

"I KILLED THE CAPTAIN WHO KIDNAPPED ME.

"I MADE US A FORCE TO FRIGHTEN EVEN THE OANS.

"THERE IS NO SURRENDER. THERE ARE NO PRISONERS."



A LIFE OF ENDLESS MURDER?

I OFFER YOU A WAY OUT.

THERE IS NONE SAVE DEATH. FOR EITHER OF US.

ALREADY MY OFFICERS PLOT TO MURDER ME.



I APOLOGIZE FOR MY LOSS OF COMPOSURE.

I'M ORDERING THE FLEET TO THIS LOCATION.

YOU MAY COME WITH US, IF YOU LIKE, BEFORE THE END.



YOUR LIFE IS JOYLESS AND WITHOUT EXPECTATION, ASTARTE.

I OFFER YOU SOMETHING IN EXCHANGE FOR MY HOME.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU COULD POSSIBLY OFFER ME, CHILD?



A CHANCE TO CONSOLIDATE YOUR POWER, CAPTAIN.

"YOUR OFFICERS
BELIEVE YOU
GROW WEAK."

"SHOW THEM YOU'RE
STRONG. SHOW THEM HOW
YOU'VE DOMINATED THIS
WORLD COMPLETELY."

"ENTERTAIN THEM,
CAPTAIN ASTARTE."

"GIVE THEM
A DUEL."

LIEUTENANT SUZEN.
TAKE ARMSMISTRESS
ARAMIS AND READY THE
ARENA. UNLOCK HOLD
SEVENTEEN.

YOU'LL HAVE
TO HAVE SOME
CITIZENRY GEAR.
EVEN WITH YOUR
ABILITIES, YOU'LL
DIE TOO FAST
WITHOUT THEM.

IT WOULD
WEAKEN
MY POSITION,
SHOULD THAT
OCCUR.

WE DON'T HAVE
TIME TO TEACH YOU
TO USE IT.

BUT IT
WOULDN'T MAKE
ANY DIFFERENCE
ANYWAY.

IF I WIN,
YOU LEAVE THIS
SYSTEM?

I
WOULD,
BUT YOU
WON'T.

AND THE
MOMENT YOU ARE
BEATEN...?

I SEND
EVERYTHING WE HAVE
AT YOUR PLANET.

WE KNOW
ABOUT YOUR
METAHUMANS.

IT WON'T
HELP.

CAPTAIN.

WHAT LIVES
IN HOLD SEVENTEEN?
WHAT IS IT I HAVE
TO KILL?

THE MOST
VICIOUS CITIZEN
SOLDIER WE'VE EVER
RAISED, CHILD.

EVERY CRUEL
IMPULSE EVER
IMAGINED.

HER NAME
IS **THEANA**.



AND
SHE IS OUR
PRINCESS.

SHE IS OUR
CHAMPION.

AND
SHE IS MY
DAUGHTER.

NEXT: CUT FROM a POUND of FLESH



44
JUL '10

**SIMONE
SCOTT
DAGNINO**

Wonder Woman





WRATH OF THE SILVER SERPENT

Part 3 of 3 CUT FROM A POUND OF FLESH

Writer • GAIL SIMONE Pencillers • NICOLA SCOTT AND TRAVIS MOORE
Inkers • DOUG HAZLEWOOD, WAYNE FAUCHER, JOHN DELL, AND HI-FI

Colorist • HI-FI Letterer • TRAVIS LANHAM
Cover • NICOLA SCOTT Associate Editor • SEAN RYAN
Editor • BRIAN CUNNINGHAM

WONDER WOMAN created by
WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

A^N
ARENA.

I LONG AGO CAME
TO THE BELIEF THAT
WHEN I DIE, IT WILL
BE IN SUCH A PLACE.

IN THREE THOUSAND
YEARS, PRECIOUS
FEW AMAZONS HAVE
DIED IN THEIR SLEEP,
SURROUNDED BY
THEIR LOVED ONES.

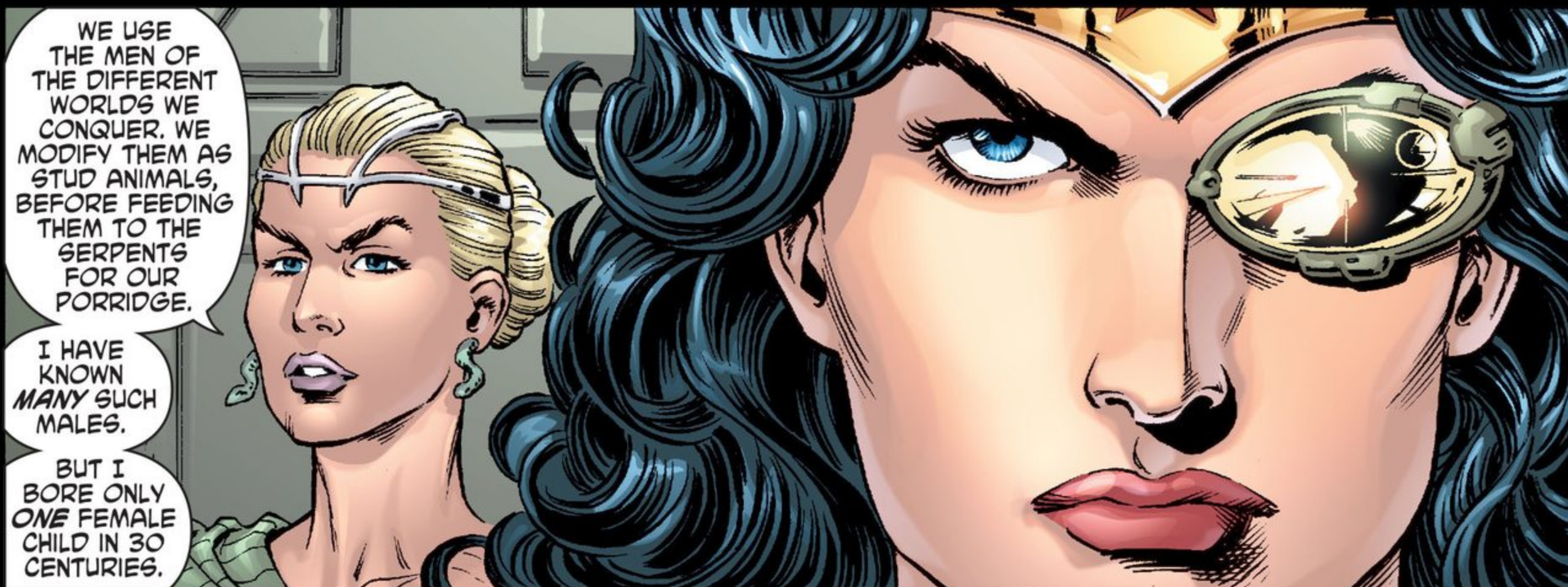
AND THIS THING, THIS SILENT
WARRIOR IN FRONT OF ME... IS
NOT JUST MY OPPONENT THIS
DAY. SHE IS THE DAUGHTER
OF MY MOTHER'S SISTER.

SHE IS MY
COUSIN.

AND ONE OF
US IS TO KILL
THE OTHER.

THE GODS' SENSE
OF HUMOR IS A BIT
CRUEL SOMETIMES.





WE USE THE MEN OF THE DIFFERENT WORLDS WE CONQUER. WE MODIFY THEM AS STUD ANIMALS, BEFORE FEEDING THEM TO THE SERPENTS FOR OUR PORRIDGE.

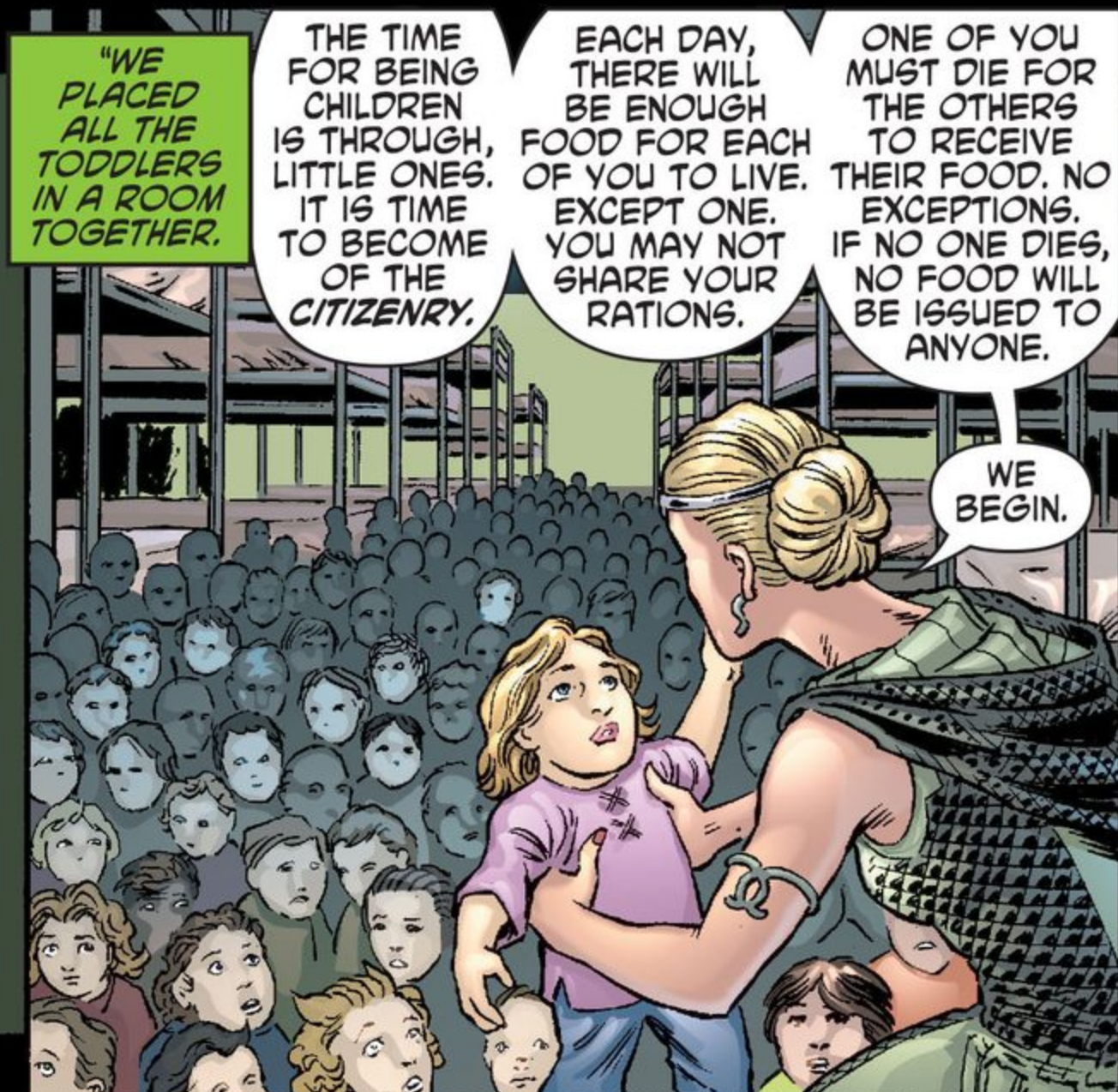
I HAVE KNOWN MANY SUCH MALES.

BUT I BORE ONLY ONE FEMALE CHILD IN 30 CENTURIES.



I RAISED HER PERSONALLY, AGAINST PROTOCOL, UNTIL SHE WAS TWO.

THEN WE BEGAN OUR EXPERIMENTS.



"WE PLACED ALL THE TODDLERS IN A ROOM TOGETHER.

THE TIME FOR BEING CHILDREN IS THROUGH, LITTLE ONES. IT IS TIME TO BECOME OF THE CITIZENRY.

EACH DAY, THERE WILL BE ENOUGH FOOD FOR EACH OF YOU TO LIVE. EXCEPT ONE. YOU MAY NOT SHARE YOUR RATIONS.

ONE OF YOU MUST DIE FOR THE OTHERS TO RECEIVE THEIR FOOD. NO EXCEPTIONS. IF NO ONE DIES, NO FOOD WILL BE ISSUED TO ANYONE.

WE BEGIN.



"WE ALLOWED THEM NO ADULT CONTACT, WE SIMPLY SLID THE FOOD THROUGH SLOTS IN THE GREAT DOOR.

"WHEN WE FINALLY OPENED THE DOOR, THREE YEARS LATER... ONLY MY DAUGHTER WAS STANDING.

"HER EDUCATION WAS COMPLETE."



YOU MADE YOUR DAUGHTER A MURDERER?

I MADE HER ROYALTY. SHE RULED THOSE CHILDREN. SHE BUILT AN ARMY AND THEN WHEN THE WEAK WERE ALL GONE, SHE KILLED HER OWN SOLDIERS HERSELF, ONE BY ONE.

EVERY DAY SINCE, SHE'S BEEN SUBJECTED TO EVERYTHING WE COULD INJECT HER WITH, PUNISH HER WITH.

AND SHE YET STANDS.



CAPTAIN, WE STILL HAVE TROOPS IN THE FIELD AND THEY ARE REPORTING RESISTANCE...

LIEUTENANT ZUGEN, SEND AROEITE AND HER SHOCK TROOPS. GO.

MY FAITH AND MY WORLDVIEW SAY THAT NO ONE IS IRREDEEMABLE.

BUT THIS SISTER OF MY MOTHER MAY WELL TEST THAT AXIOM.

BY THE UNIVERSAL RULES OF ENGAGEMENT, I AM ALLOWED A SECOND, IS THAT CORRECT?

FINE. BUT YOU MUST CHOOSE ONE OF THE CITIZENRY, EARTHLING.

EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND, ASTARTE.

I CHOOSE YOUR LIEUTENANT, CAPTAIN.

WHAT? I REFUSE! IT IS ABSURD!

YOU WILL NOT EMBARRASS ME, LIEUTENANT.

DO YOUR DUTY.

AND WHEN SHE LOSES...

...I WANT HER CHAINED, RENAMED, AND REEDUCATED.

YES, CAPTAIN. AS YOU COMMAND.

WELL, MY SECOND. HAVE YOU ANY ADVICE FOR ME?

YES. PRAY FOR A QUICK DEATH.

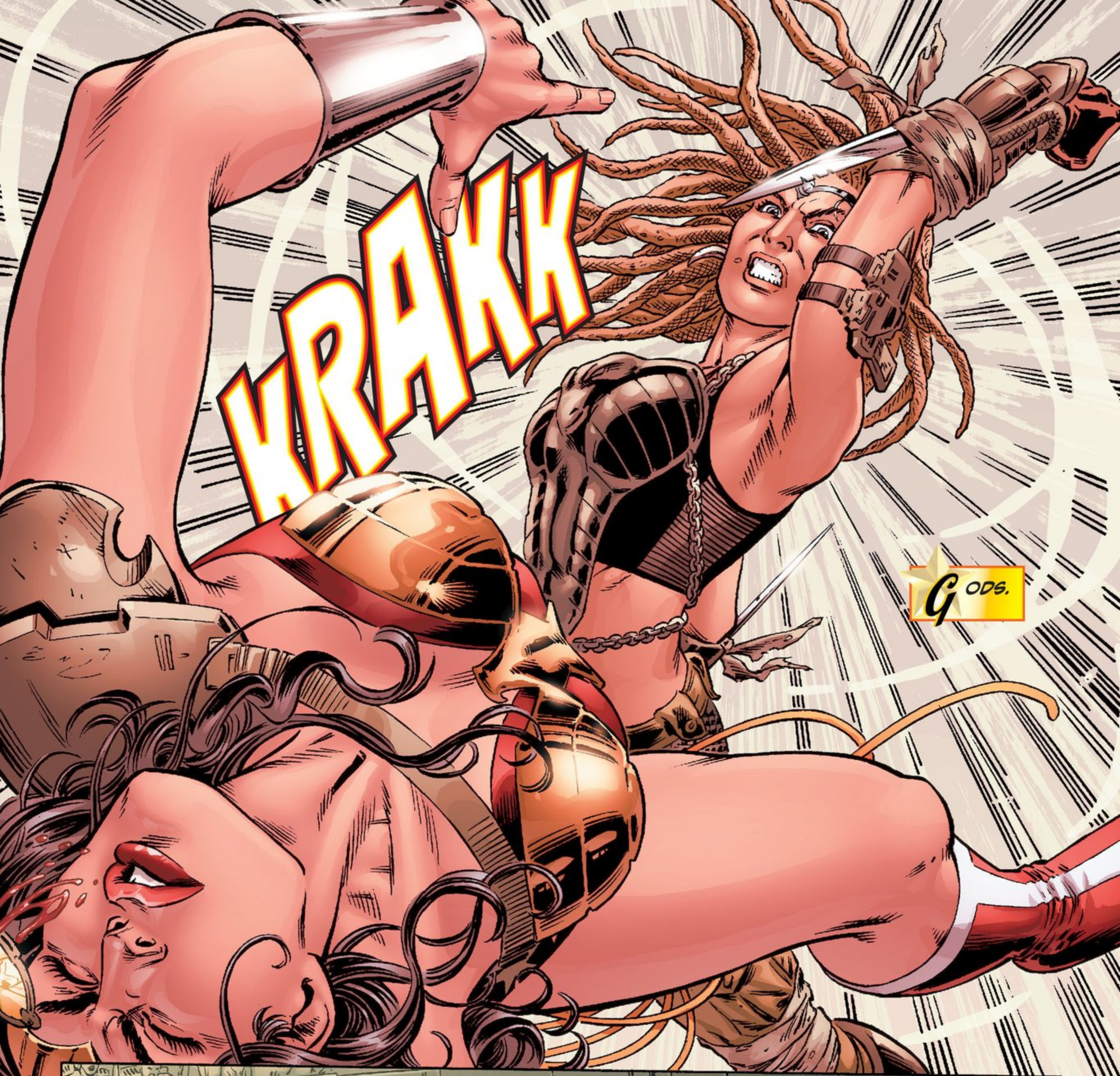
WARRIOR.
THEANA.

WE ARE BOUND BY THE SHARED BLOOD OF OUR MOTHERS.

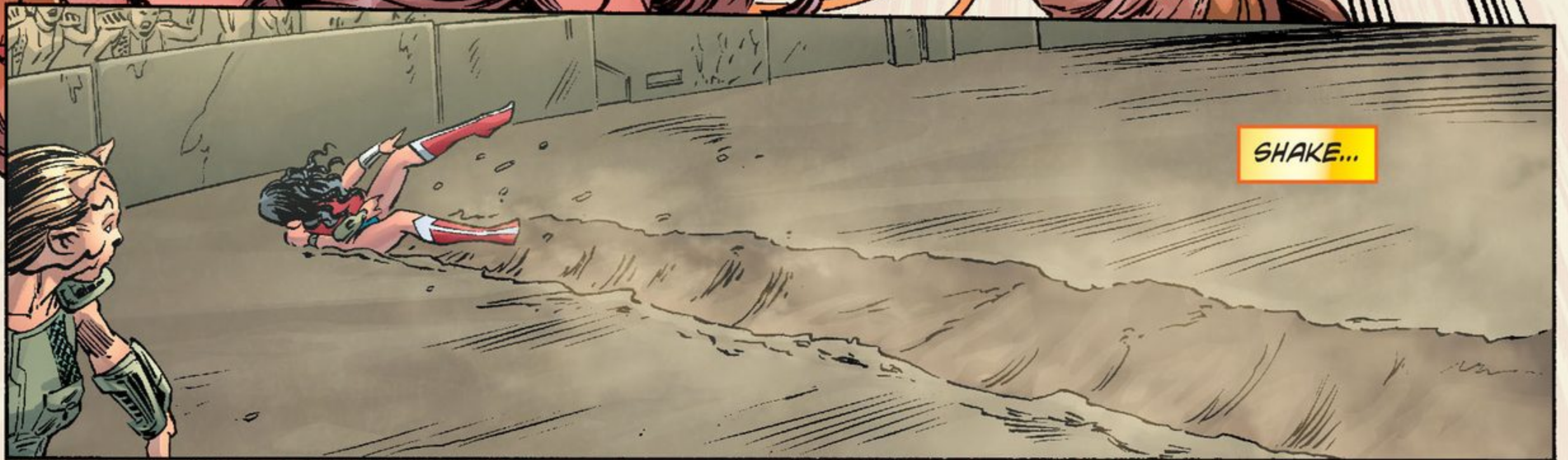
I'M CERTAIN I KNOW THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION I AM ABOUT TO ASK.

THAT DOES NOT ABSOLVE ME OF MY RESPONSIBILITY TO TRY.

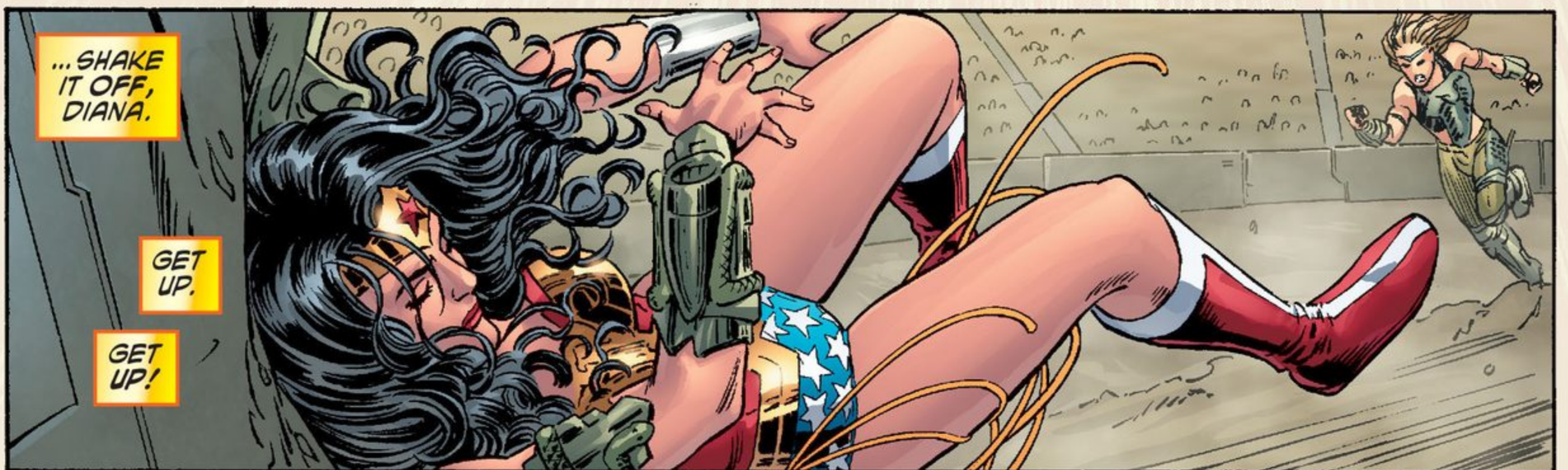
CAN THERE BE PEACE BETWEEN US?



GODS.



SHAKE...



... SHAKE IT OFF, DIANA.

GET UP.

GET UP!



SHE...

SHE KNOWS WHAT HURTS.



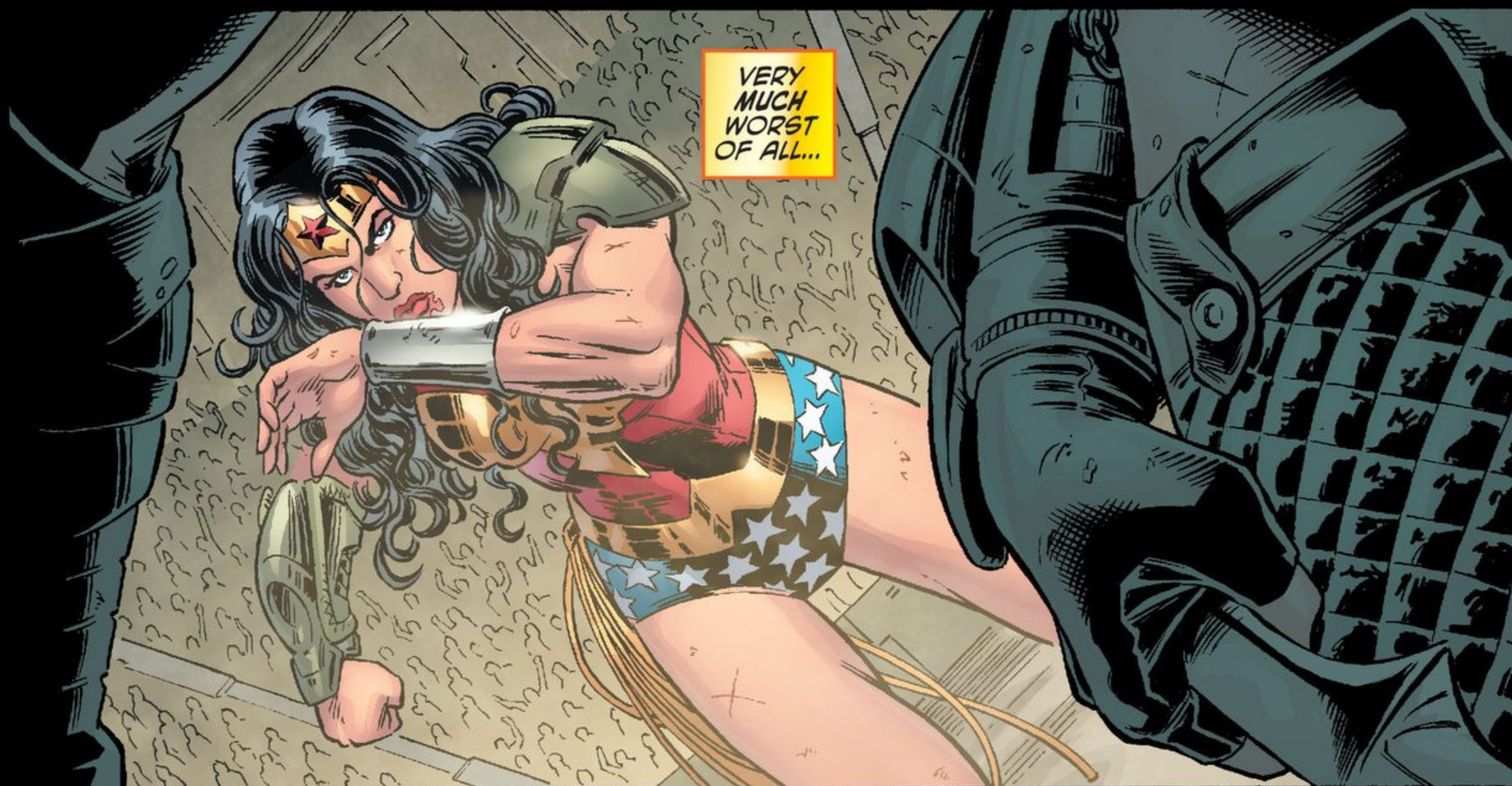
AND SHE'S FAST.



AND STRONG.



AND WORST OF ALL.



VERY MUCH WORST OF ALL...



CAN'T... CAN'T
EVEN GET THE
BRACERS UP
IN TIME.

THIS SOLDIER IS
GOING TO TAKE
ME DOWN BY
MILLIMETERS.



WILL...
WILL YOU NOT
SPEAK TO ME,
COUSIN?

I HAVE
NOTHING TO
SAY.

AND NO
ONE WORTH
SPEAKING TO,
"COUSIN."



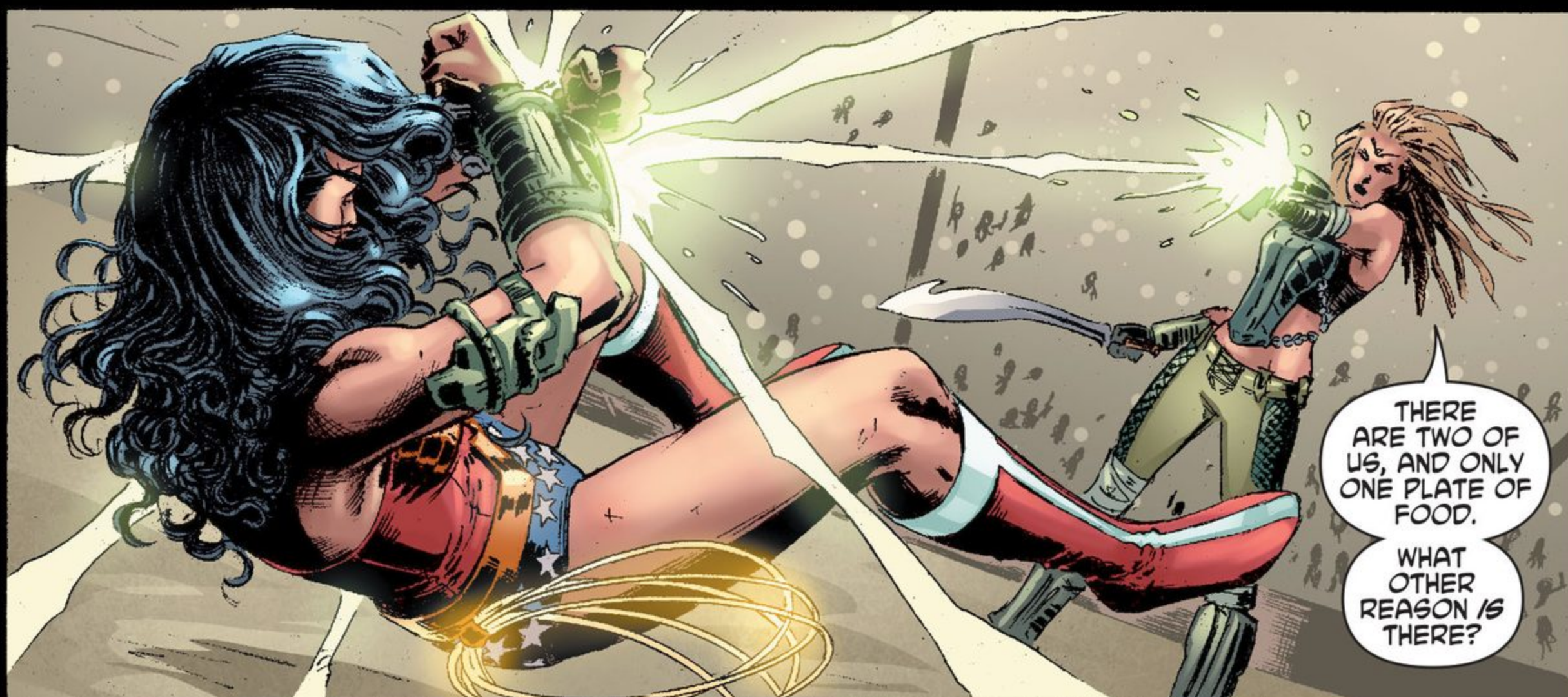
PUT DOWN YOUR
ARMS. IT WILL GO
FASTER.

SAY
WHAT YOU WILL
ABOUT ME,
THEANA.

BUT I
FIGHT FOR MY
WORLD.



WHAT
IS IT THAT
YOU FIGHT
FOR?



THERE ARE TWO OF US, AND ONLY ONE PLATE OF FOOD.
WHAT OTHER REASON IS THERE?



NEVER FELT SUCH PAIN.

DO THEY RAISE ONLY FOOLS ON THIS PLANET?

YOU CAN'T BEAT THE BEAST OF HOLD 17 WITH YOUR HANDS.



USE YOUR WEAPONS. FIGHT AS A CITIZEN.

ZUSEN.

LISTEN TO ME.

YOU CAN'T LIE IN MY LASSO'S PRESENCE. I KNOW YOU HATE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.



YOU MUST DO AS I SAY. OR THIS WILL NEVER, EVER END.

ARE YOU MAD?
I CAN'T.



YOU CAN AND YOU WILL.

YOU'VE TAKEN ASTARTE'S ORDERS YOUR ENTIRE EXISTENCE.

NOW YOU WILL TAKE MINE.

WHAT
IS IT YOU
WANT?

I WANT YOU TO OPEN
TWO PORTALS IN THE BARRIER.
BRIEFLY, WITHOUT YOUR
CAPTAIN'S KNOWLEDGE.

THERE'S A MAN
I WANT YOU TO GET
A MESSAGE TO, ON
THE OUTSIDE.

A MAN? HOW
WOULD I FIND THIS SINGLE
MALE AMONG THE MANY?

"OH, I'M
SURE YOUR
FIGHTERS ARE
ALREADY WELL
ACQUAINTED
WITH HIM,
LIEUTENANT
ZUSEN."

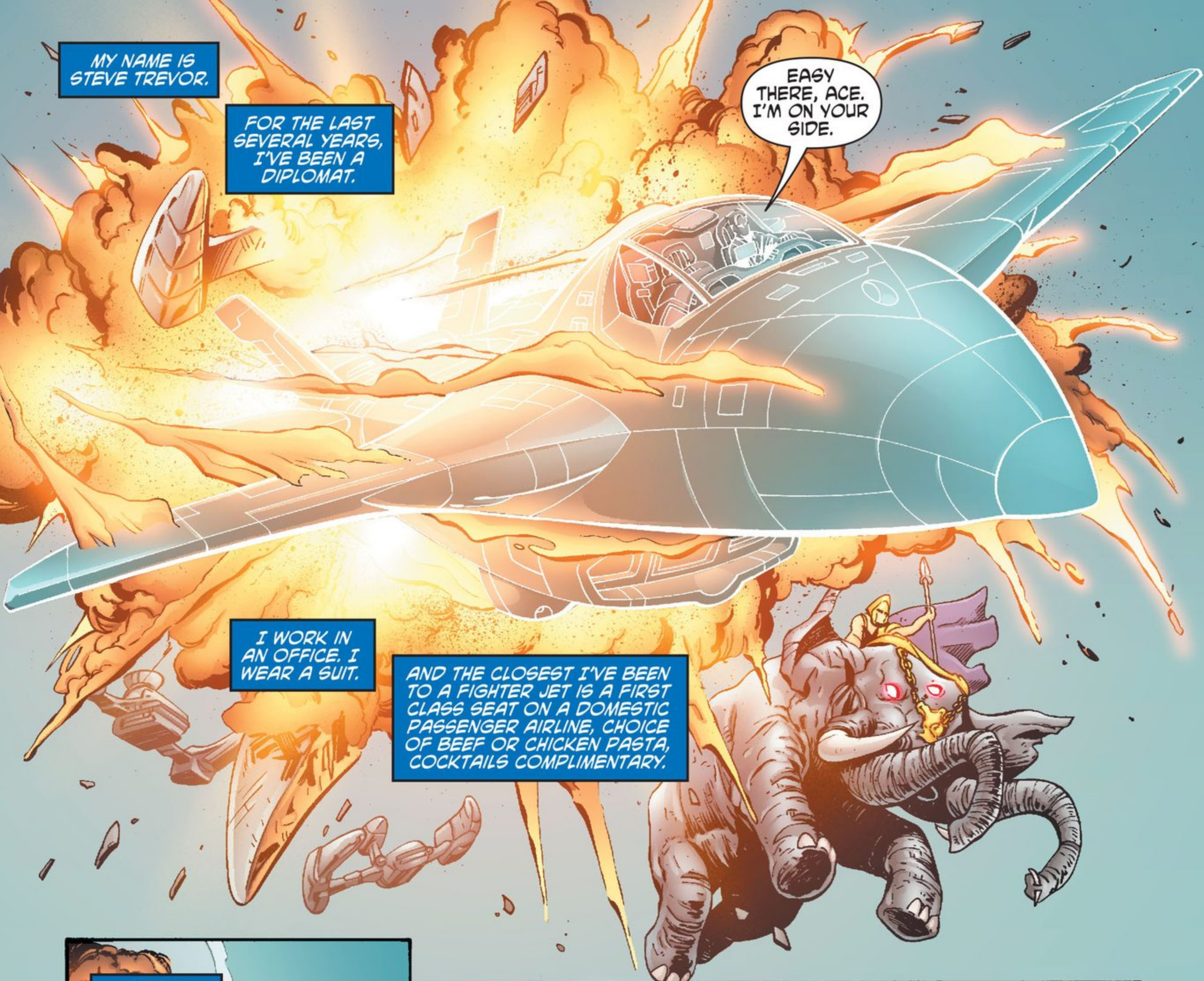
COME AND
FIGHT ME,
COWARDS OF
THE SKY!

YOUR DEATH
BECKONS TO
YOU ALL!

URR.

ATTACKING
FROM BEHIND.

LET
US MEET
OUR FATES
TOGETHER,
THEN.



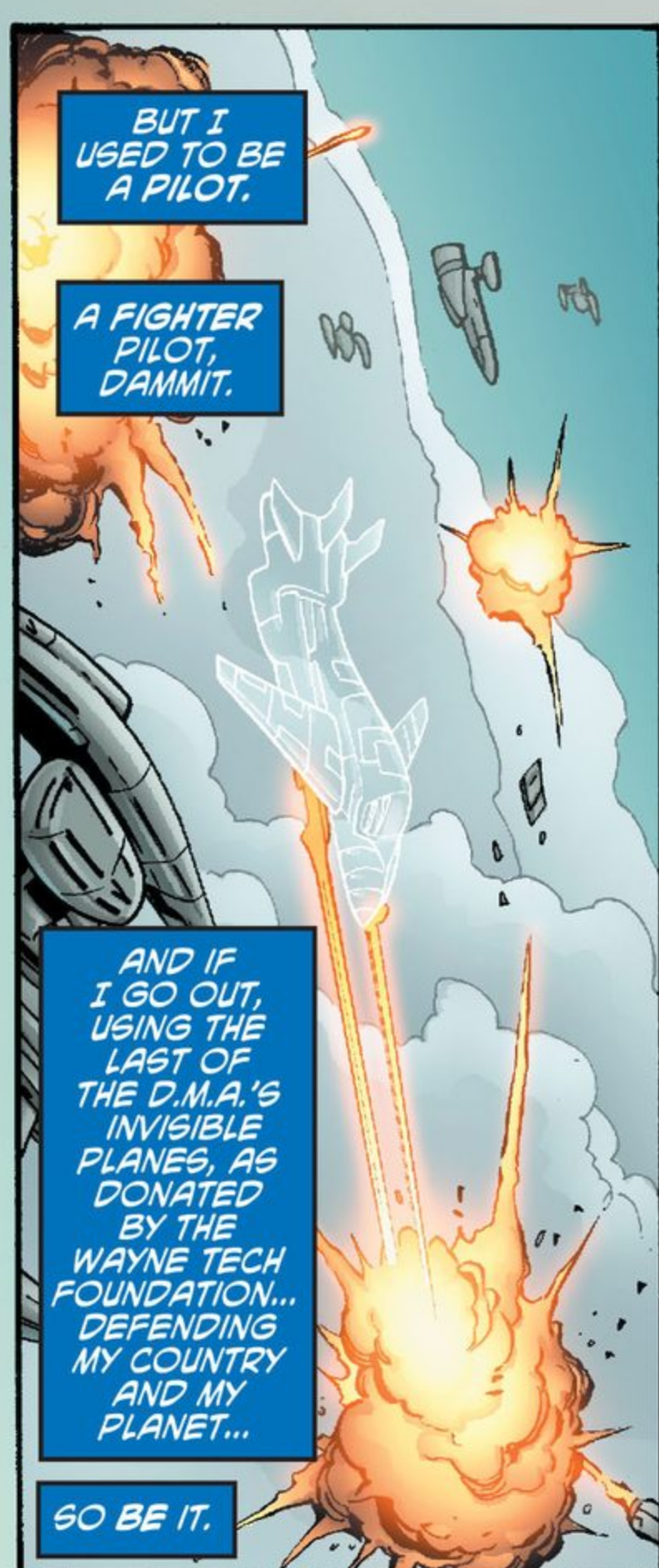
MY NAME IS
STEVE TREVOR.

FOR THE LAST
SEVERAL YEARS,
I'VE BEEN A
DIPLOMAT.

EASY
THERE, ACE.
I'M ON YOUR
SIDE.

I WORK IN
AN OFFICE. I
WEAR A SUIT.

AND THE CLOSEST I'VE BEEN
TO A FIGHTER JET IS A FIRST
CLASS SEAT ON A DOMESTIC
PASSENGER AIRLINE, CHOICE
OF BEEF OR CHICKEN PASTA,
COCKTAILS COMPLIMENTARY.



BUT I
USED TO BE
A PILOT.

A FIGHTER
PILOT,
DAMMIT.

AND IF
I GO OUT,
USING THE
LAST OF
THE D.M.A.'S
INVISIBLE
PLANES, AS
DONATED
BY THE
WAYNE TECH
FOUNDATION...
DEFENDING
MY COUNTRY
AND MY
PLANET...

SO BE IT.



COME
ON.

LET'S SHOW
THEM WHO THE
SKY BELONGS
TO.

I COULD
KINDA GET
USED TO IT.



S HE'S GOOD AT
DISTANCE AND
CLOSE FIGHTING.

**EVERY
WARRIOR HAS
A WEAKNESS.**



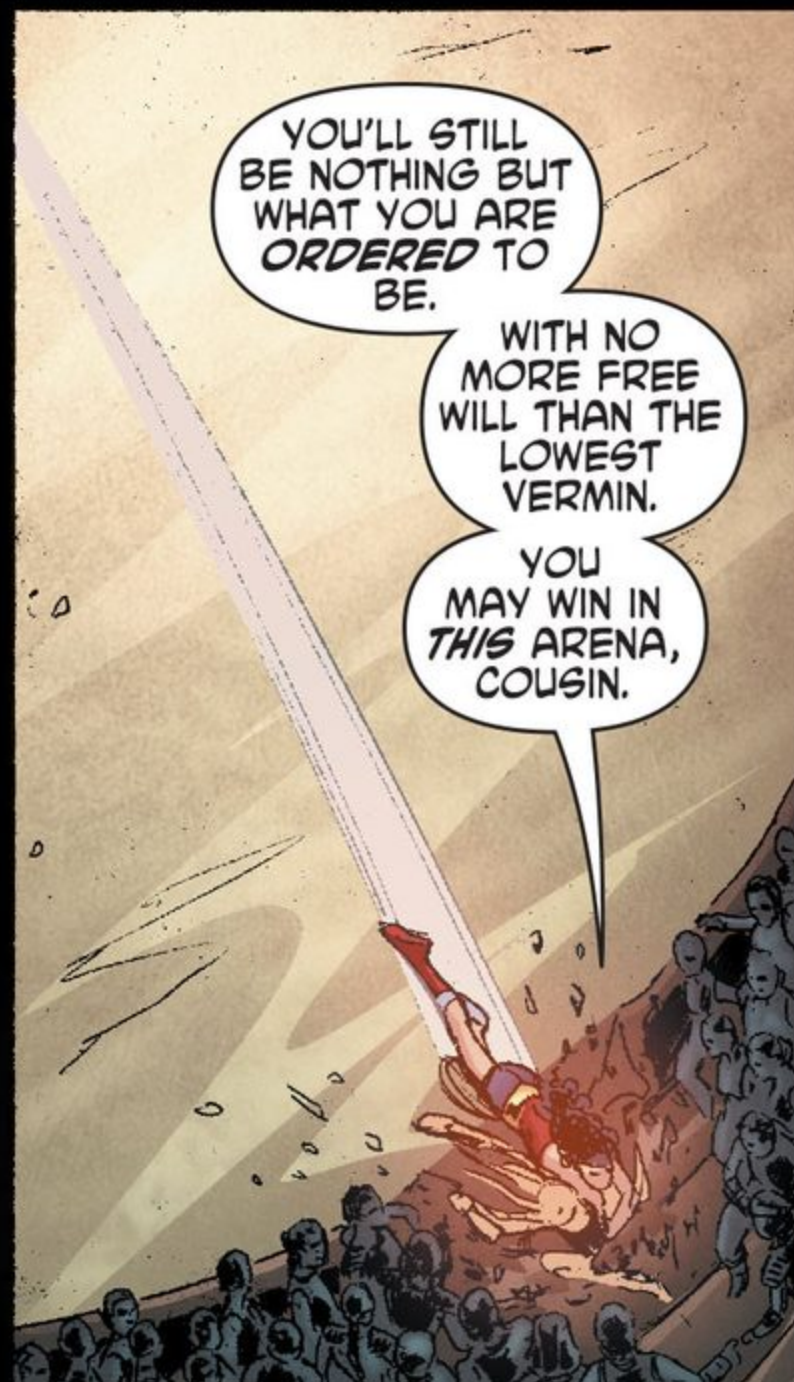
**MAYBE HERS IS
EMOTIONAL.**

I
MUST SAY,
THEANA.
YOU DON'T
SEEM TO HAVE
THOUGHT THIS
THROUGH.



HAVE YOU EVER
CONSIDERED...

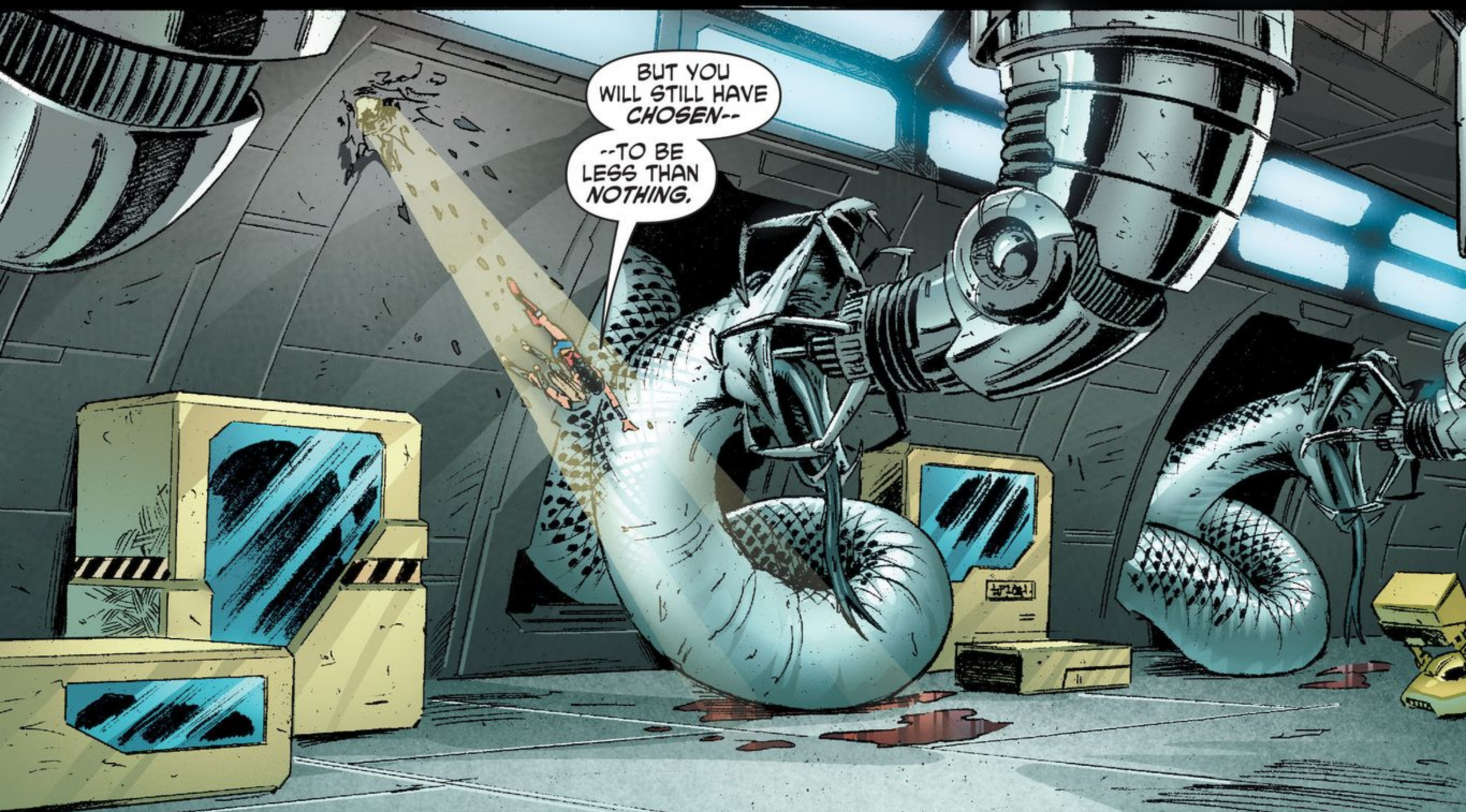
...WHAT
HAPPENS IF
YOU WIN?



YOU'LL STILL
BE NOTHING BUT
WHAT YOU ARE
ORDERED TO
BE.

WITH NO
MORE FREE
WILL THAN THE
LOWEST
VERMIN.

YOU
MAY WIN IN
THIS ARENA,
COUSIN.



BUT YOU
WILL STILL HAVE
CHOSEN--

--TO BE
LESS THAN
NOTHING.



BE STILL.

NO WAR WORTH WAGING IS FOUGHT WITH SO MUCH TALK.



THAT MIGHT BE THE WISEST THING YOU WILL EVER SAY, COUSIN.

YOU DO KNOW YOU'RE LIKE ME, DON'T YOU?

YOUR MOTHER DREAMS OF OLYMPUS.



THAT IS A LIE. SHE HATES THIS WORLD.

MY MOTHER WAS CREATED AS AN WOMAN, NOT A CHILD.

ASTARTE HAS FORGOTTEN, BUT SHE **MUST** HAVE BEEN AN **AMAZON**.

RENAMING THOSE AROUND HER WITH THE HALF-FORGOTTEN NAMES OF OUR GODS.



"ZUSEN" FROM "ZEUS."

"AROEITE" FROM "APHRODITE."

AND YOUR NAME...



... COMES FROM ATHENA.

GODDESS OF CIVILIZATION.



AND WISDOM.

IT IS A LIE.

SHE LIVES ONLY... ONLY FOR OUR PRINCIPLES!



THEANA.

COUSIN.



WHAT ARE THOSE PRINCIPLES?

REVENGE? CRUELTY?



WHAT EXACTLY IS THE MEANING OF YOUR LIFE IN THIS UNIVERSE, THEANA?



SHE... SHE'S...

ARE HER WORDS CALMING THE BEAST?

IT IS NOT A VICTORY I ACKNOWLEDGE. SEND DOWN ALL FIGHTERS.

AND HAVE MY DAUGHTER DESTROYED IMMEDIATELY.





HMMPH.
PERHAPS
WE DO SHARE
COMMON BLOOD,
AFTER ALL.
COUSIN.

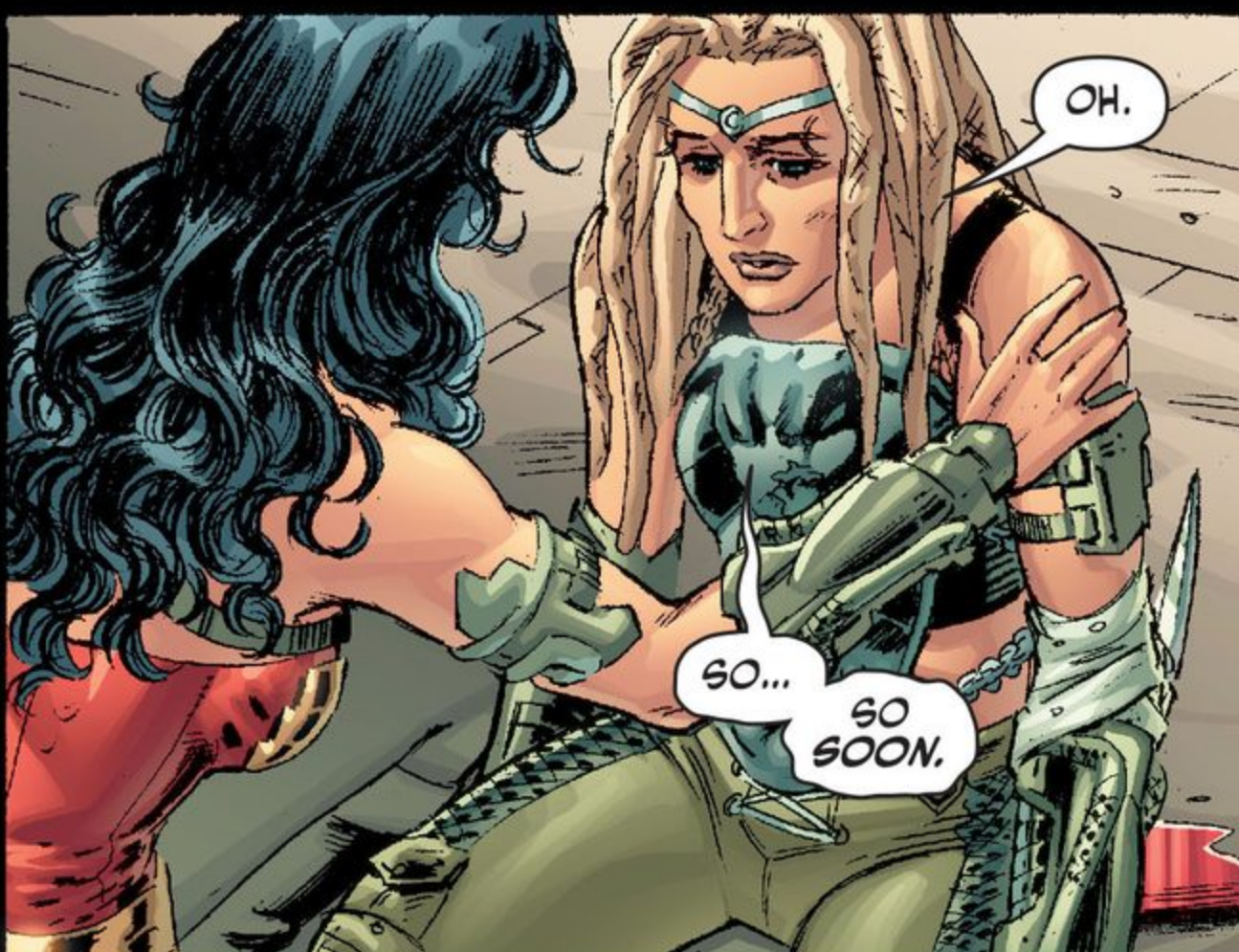


LLGK...

THEANA!



BE PREPARED
TO FIRE AGAIN.
SHOOT TO
KILL.



OH.

SO...
SO SOON.



SHE... SHE
COULD HAVE
BEEN ME. IF
MY MOTHER HAD...

... IF MY AUNT
HADN'T TAKEN
MY MOTHER'S
PLACE.

REST WELL,
COUSIN.

... IF
ASTARTE'S TALE
OF SELFLESSNESS
WERE TRUE, AND
SHE HADN'T TAKEN
MY MOTHER'S
PLACE.



YOU GO
TO YOUR REST
UNDEFEATED.

WAR.

IT MAKES
FOOD OF
US ALL, AND
IT IS EVER
RAPACIOUS.



I DON'T RUN
FROM IT.

I DON'T FEAR
IT FOR MYSELF.

BUT I AM SICK
TO DEATH OF
THE CASUALTIES.

ASTARTE.



ASTARTE.

I WILL NEVER
BELIEVE THAT THIS
WOMAN'S BLOOD
IS COMMON WITH
MY QUEEN'S.

I
CAN'T.

I
WON'T.



HER
BLOOD
IS ICE.

FIRE,
DAMN YOU
ALL!

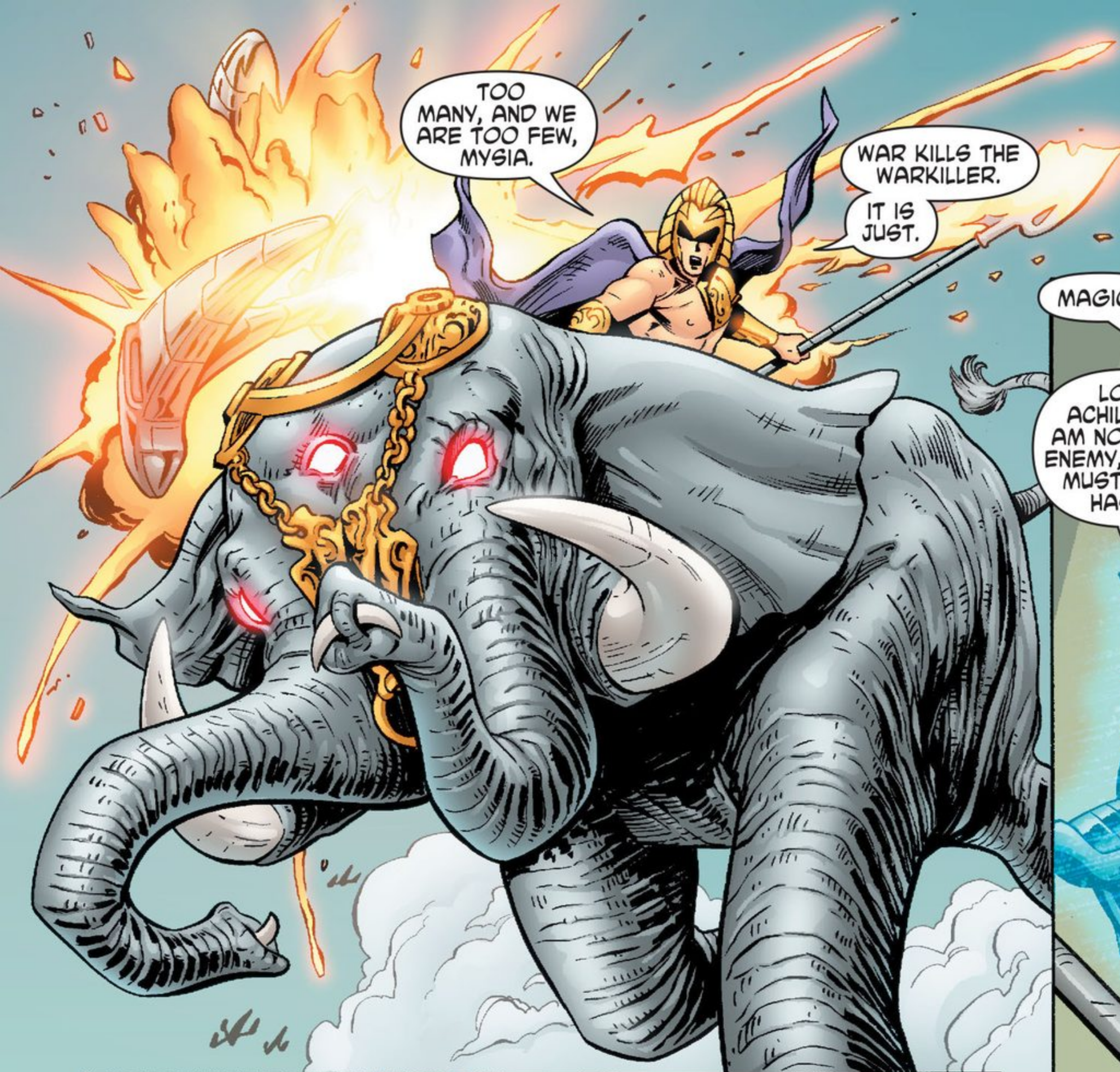
FIRE!

KILL
HER!



AMAZON
BLOOD...

...IS
FIRE.



TOO MANY, AND WE ARE TOO FEW, MYGIA.

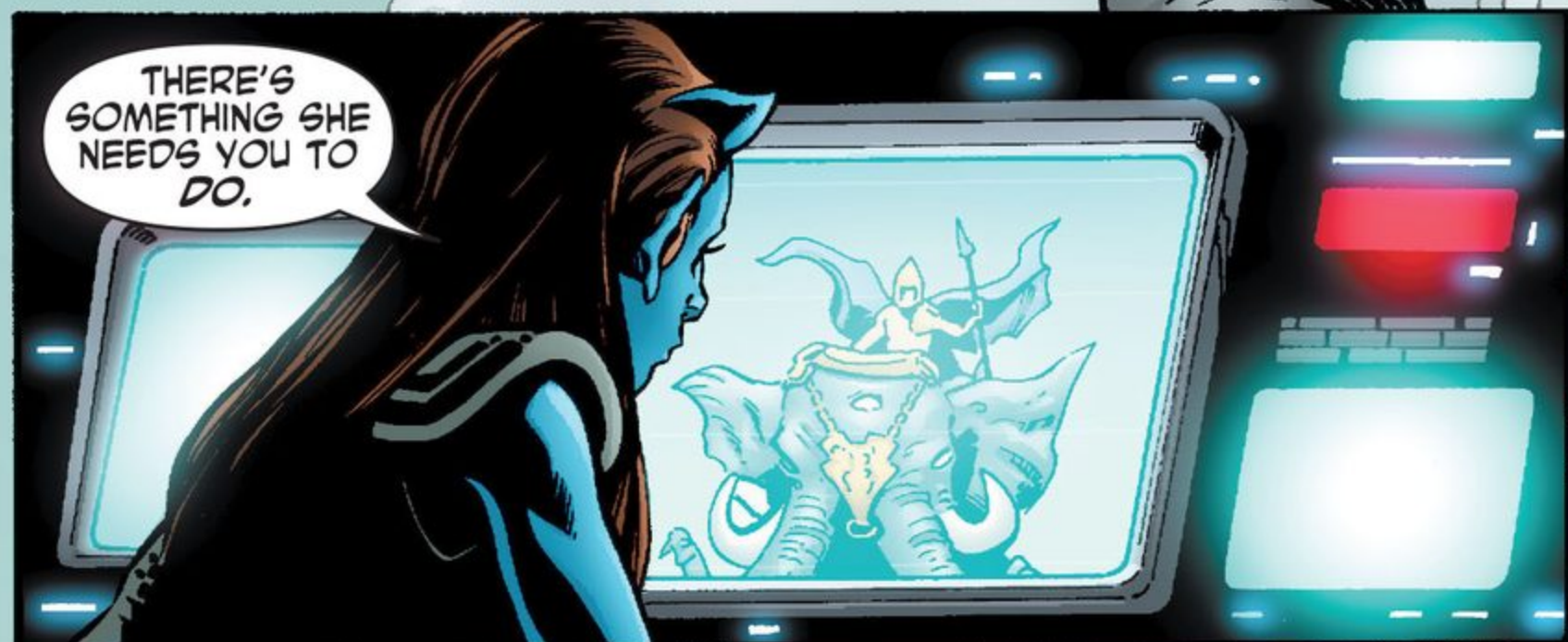
WAR KILLS THE WARKILLER.
IT IS JUST.



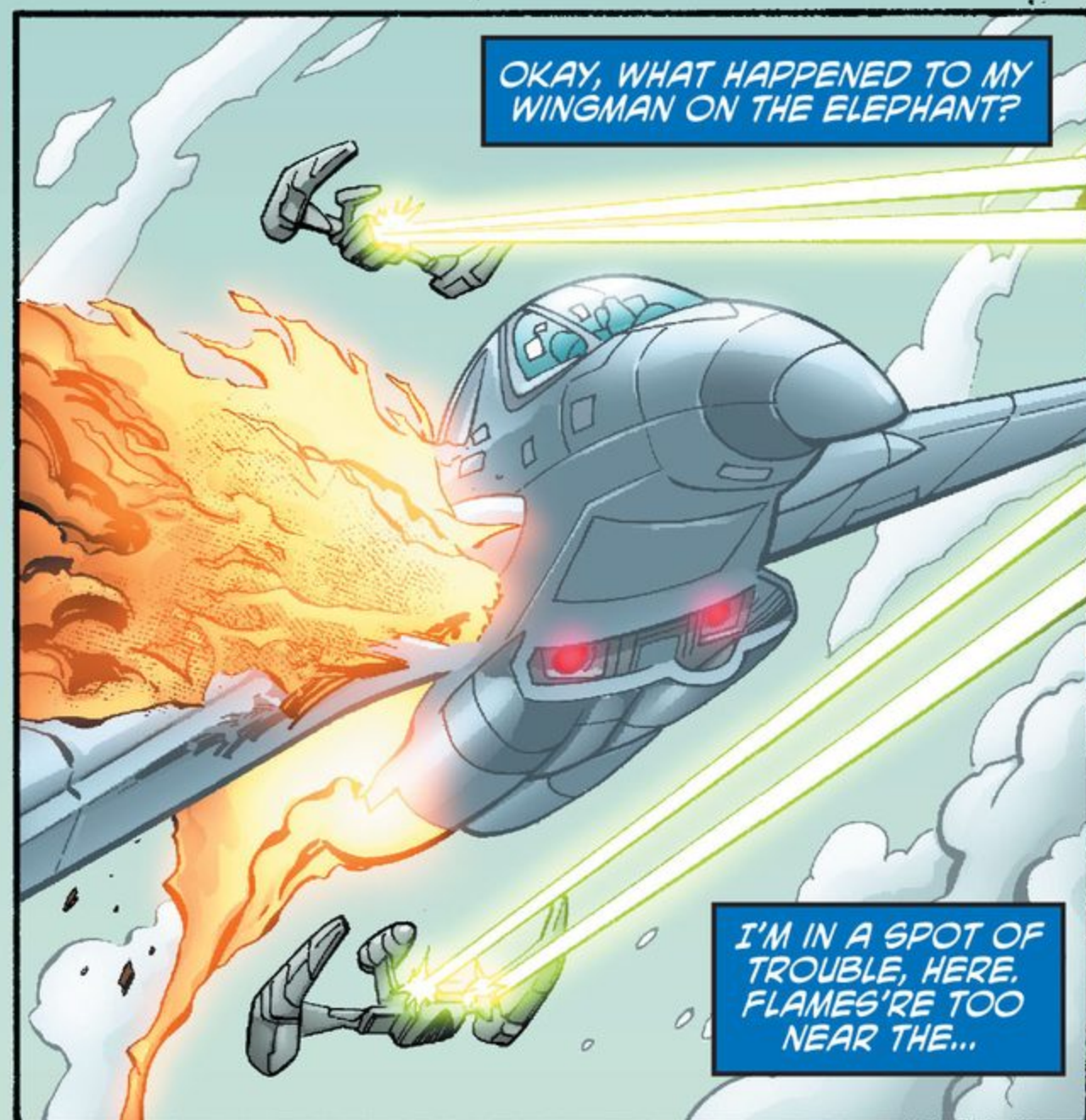
MAGIC?

LORD ACHILLES. I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY, BUT WE MUST MAKE HASTE.

I HAVE WORD FROM THE PRINCESS.



THERE'S SOMETHING SHE NEEDS YOU TO DO.



OKAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO MY WINGMAN ON THE ELEPHANT?

I'M IN A SPOT OF TROUBLE, HERE. FLAMES'RE TOO NEAR THE...



FWOOMP!

...ENGINE.

WELL... THERE GOES A HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS OF BRUCE WAYNE'S MONEY.

DAMN PLANE NEVER MADE A LICK OF SENSE ANYHOW.



YOU WIN,
ASTARTE.

IT'S WAR.
BUT I'LL FIGHT
IT MY WAY.

WITH MY
WEAPONS.



CLOSE
THIS PORTAL,
HETESIA. A DEMON
APPROACHES.

SPEND
YOUR LIFE
DISTRACTING
HER, IF YOU
CAN.

I WILL,
CAPTAIN.



ASTARTE.
WE
NEED TO
TALK.



MY BATTERY'S GOIN'.

MINE, TOO.

GUESS IT WASN'T TOO BRIGHT DOING AWAY WITH THE BAYONETS, HUH, D'ALESSIO?



PLEASURE TO SERVE WITH YOU, COLONEL CANDY.

LIKEWISE, MICHAEL.

OF ALL DEEDS, I ONLY REGRET NOT EATING MORE.

GREAT PILES OF FOOD, ROTTING AND DELICIOUS.



DON'T DESPAIR, OH GREATEST OF GORILLAS.

YOU MAY YET LIVE TO FILL YOUR BELLY PAST CAPACITY.

AMAZONS...

GODDESS... HIPPOLYTA...





CAPTAIN.

IT MAKES YOU
OUR CAPTAIN.



TRAITOR!



SILENCE,
NON-CITIZEN.

YOUR VOICE
WILL NO LONGER
BE HEARD, BY YOUR
OWN LAW.

YOU WILL
BE EXECUTED
IMMEDIATELY.



SHE WILL
NOT.

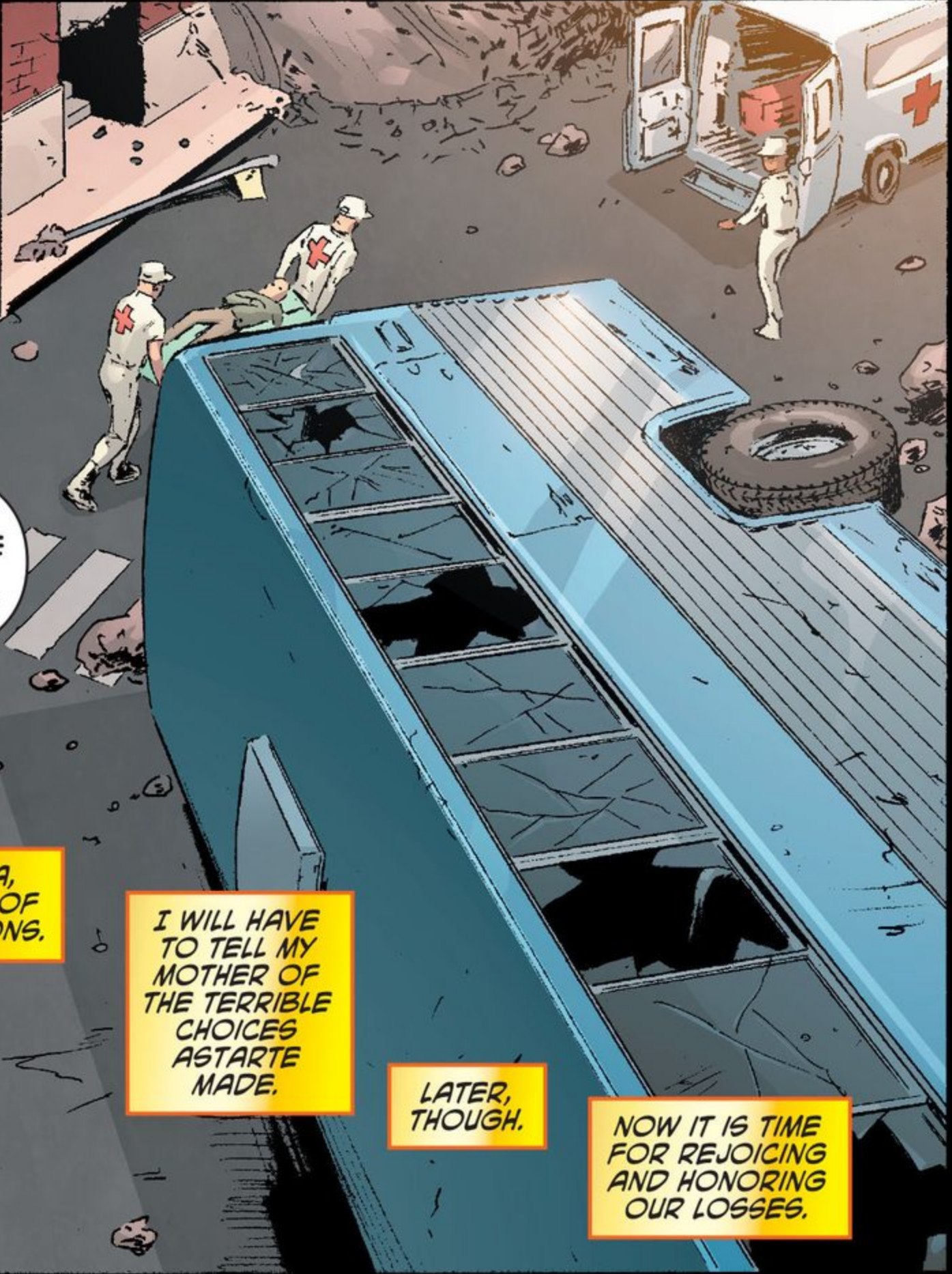
SHE'S GOING
WITH ME TO
THEMYSIRA TO
BE REFORMED.
THE CITIZENRY
WILL NEVER
AGAIN KILL,
FOR ANY REASON.

YOU WILL
FIND YOUR
RESOURCES ON
UNINHABITED
PLANETS.

OR NEXT
TIME IT'LL
BE YOU IN THE
ARENA WITH ME,
LIEUTENANT.



... SEEMINGLY
ENDLESS REPORTS
OF WASHINGTONIANS
BEING SAVED BY
AMAZONS, IN SOME
CASES AT THE
EXPENSE OF THEIR
OWN LIVES...



YOU
TRUST THEM
TO STAY AWAY?
THE CITIZENRY,
I MEAN?

NO. BUT
I TRUST MY
INTIMIDATION
SKILLS.

MOST OF
THEM WEREN'T
BORN KILLERS. LIKE
MOST SOLDIERS,
THEY'D RATHER BE
ELSEWHERE.

THIS IS THEIR
CHANCE.

9 AM DIANA,
PRINCESS OF
THE AMAZONS.

I WILL HAVE
TO TELL MY
MOTHER OF
THE TERRIBLE
CHOICES
ASTARTE
MADE.

LATER,
THOUGH.

NOW IT IS TIME
FOR REJOICING
AND HONORING
OUR LOSSES.



HEY, AS LONG
AS THEY TAKE
THEIR CHANCE
SOMEWHERE
ELSE...

DIANA.

MY BIRTH
WAS NOT
BY NATURAL
MEANS.

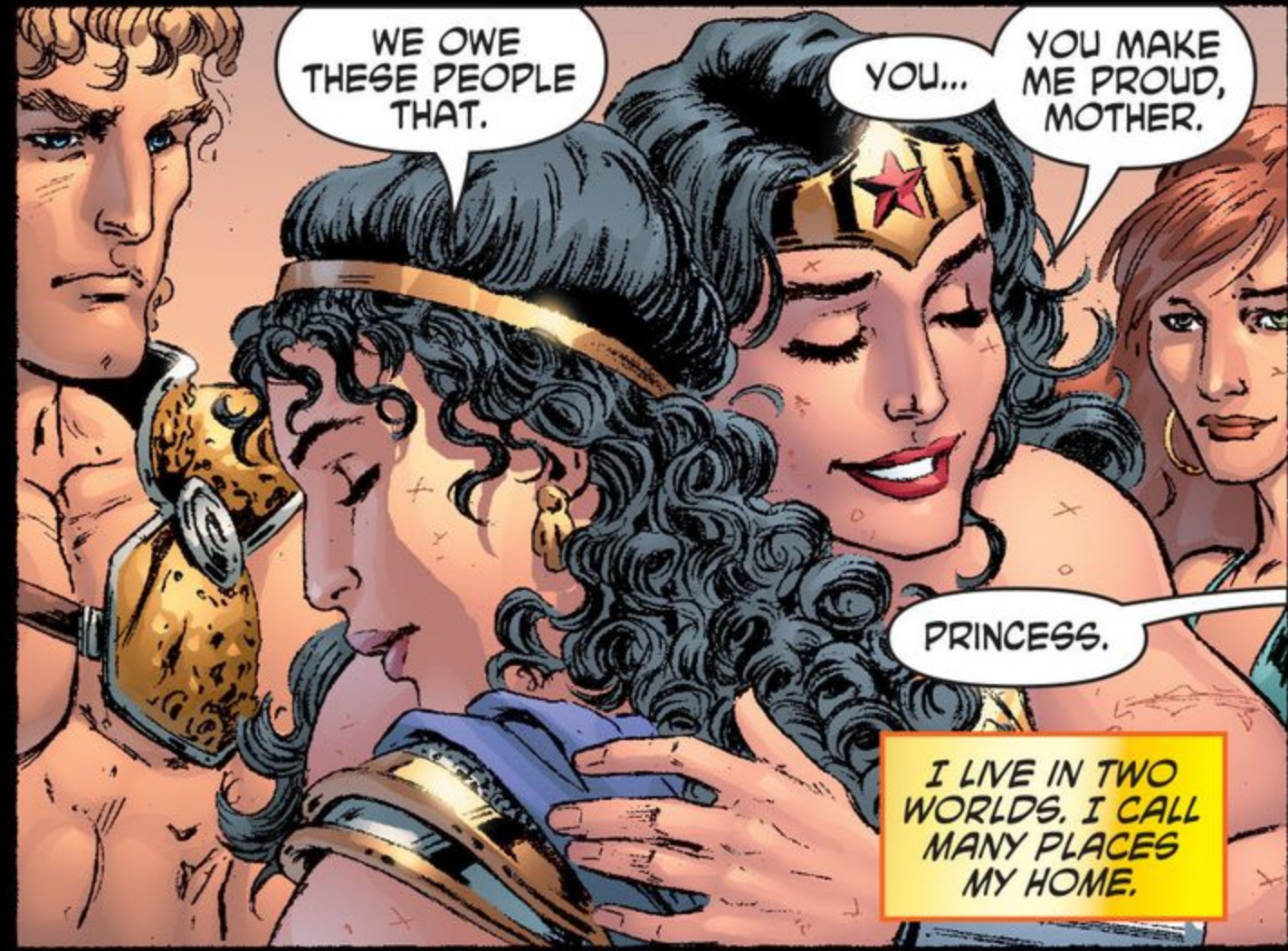


AH. THE
HEROES OF
THE DAY.

ARE YOU GOING BACK
NOW? SAY HELLO TO SWIFTMAN
AND STEALTHFIN FOR ME,
WOULD YOU?

WE'RE
STAYING,
DAUGHTER.

TO HELP
CLEAR THE
DAMAGE. TO
REBUILD.



WE OWE
THESE PEOPLE
THAT.

YOU...

YOU MAKE
ME PROUD,
MOTHER.

PRINCESS.

I LIVE IN TWO
WORLDS. I CALL
MANY PLACES
MY HOME.



TOLIFHAR?

OUR PEOPLE
HEARD OF WHAT
WE'VE DONE HERE,
PRINCESS.

WE
HAVE...

WE
HAVE BEEN
FORGIVEN.

BY ALL RIGHTS, I SHOULD BE ALONE EVERYWHERE I GO.

WE'RE GOING HOME.

AND YET...

... I FIND I AM NOT.

THE REST OF YOU, COME TO ME. ALL OF YOU.

INSTEAD, I FIND LOVE IN EVERY DIRECTION I LOOK.

ALL OF YOU.

IT'S NOT GOODBYE. WE FOUGHT AND WON.

WE WILL NEVER TRULY BE APART.

I AM DIANA, PRINCESS OF THE AMAZONS.

AND THIS IS THE LIFE I AM BLESSED TO HAVE LED.

NEXT: WONDER WOMAN #600!



Wonder Woman[®]

#600

CONNER
JOHNS
SIMONE
SIMONSON
STRACZYNSKI
DAVIS
HORN
HUGHES
JIMENEZ
JOCK
KOLINS
KRAMER
LEE
MANAPUL
MARCH
PANSICA
PEREZ
REIS
SCOTT



GEORGE PEREZ

INTRODUCTION BY
LYNDA CARTER

AUG 2010
DCCOMICS.COM



NO. 600 AUGUST 2010

DCCOMICS.COM

Wonder Woman

STRACZYNSKI • KRAMER • BABINSKI
& many more celebrate the gala anniversary
issue of the Amazon Princess!

THE
SENSATIONAL
600TH
ISSUE!





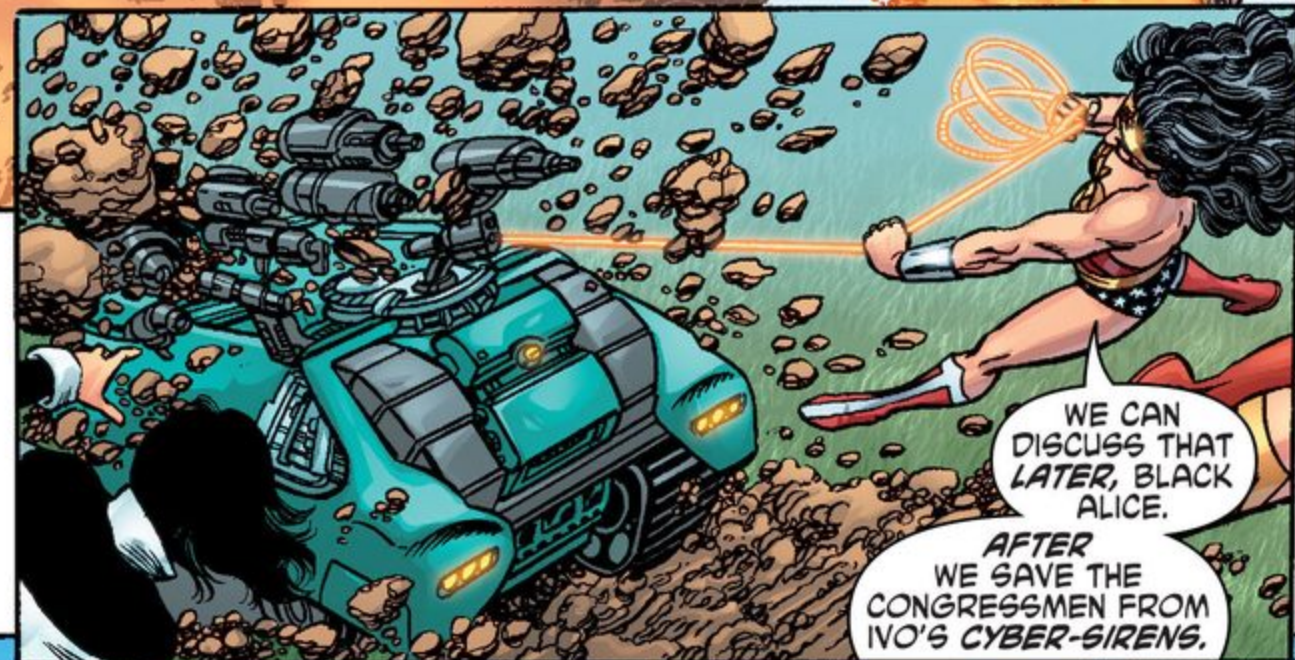
ON MY WORD,
WARRIORS...



...FORWARD!

JEEZ.
WHO DIED AND
MADE HER
PRINCESS?

BEAUTIFUL.
SO BEAUTIFUL.



WE CAN
DISCUSS THAT
LATER, BLACK
ALICE.

AFTER
WE SAVE THE
CONGRESSMEN FROM
IVO'S CYBER-SIRENS.



SUPERGIRL.
CAN YOU
MAKE IT TO
THE FLYING
TANK?

I CAN
TRY!



PRETTY
GIRLS MAKING
GUYS ACT
DUMB.

IT'S JUST LIKE
HIGH SCHOOL ALL
OVER AGAIN.

SO
BEAUTIFUL! WE'LL
DO ANYTHING
FOR YOU!



GET OUT
OF THE WAY,
DOVE!

COMIN' THROUGH
WITH BRAINWASHED
HORNDOGS!



I GOT 'EM!
I GOT THE
SNIPERS!

HEY!
WATCH THE
TENTACLES,
THERE, PAL!



IF YOU REFUSE
TO DO IVO'S WILL,
THEN ONLY DEATH
AWAITS YOU!

GET
DOWN, YOU
IDIOTS!

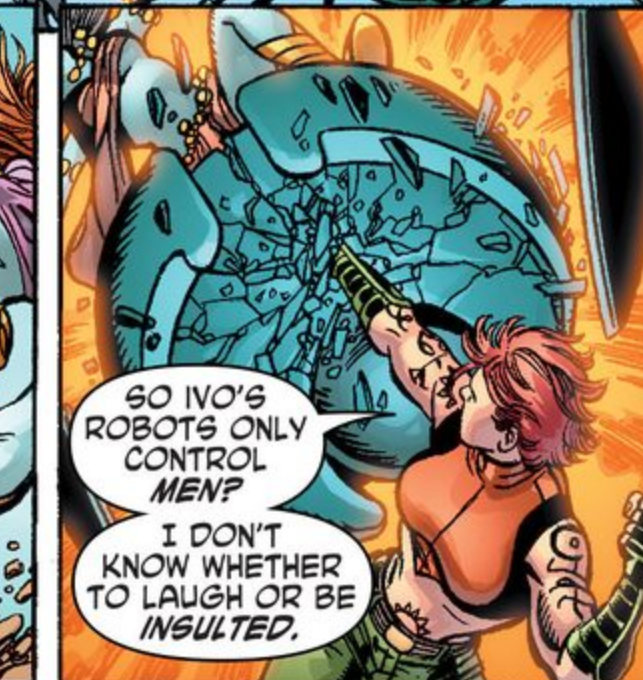


CAN'T BELIEVE I'M
SAVING THE GUYS
WHO PROTECT THE
GUY I VOTED
AGAINST!



THIS
DOESN'T SEEM
LIKE YOUR
KINDA GIG,
RAVAGER.

SHE ASKED.
I CAME.



SO IVO'S
ROBOTS ONLY
CONTROL
MEN?

I DON'T
KNOW WHETHER
TO LAUGH OR BE
INSULTED.



PERSONALLY, I
DON'T FIND THEM
BEAUTIFUL AT
ALL!

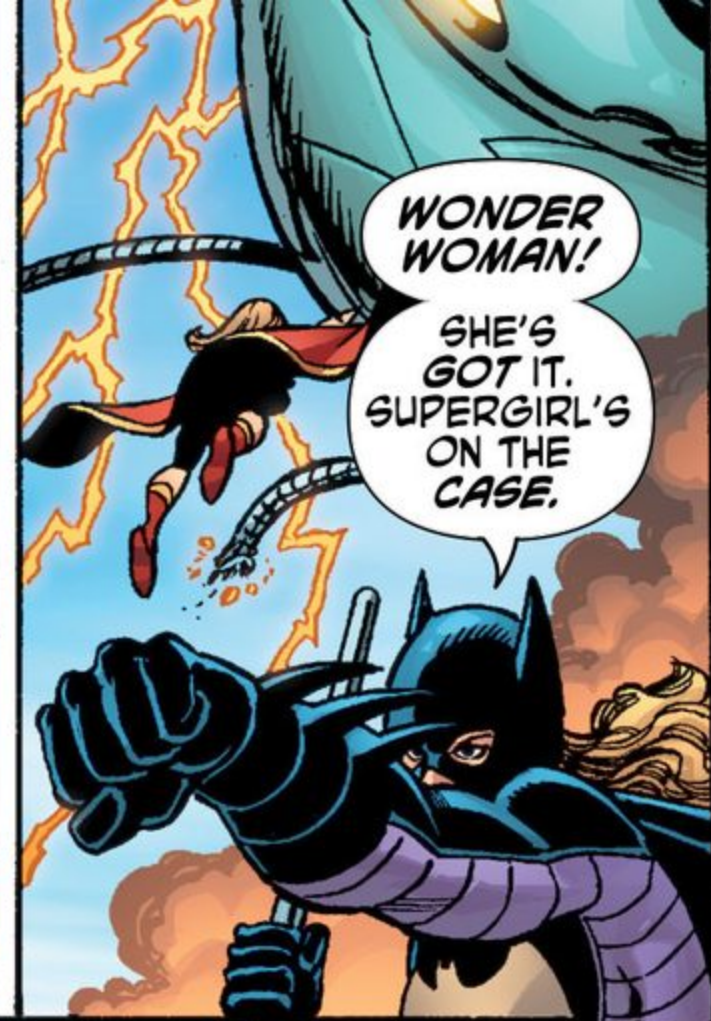


I AM SO FIXING TO UNLOAD SOME DARK VENGEANCE ON THESE CHICKS!



NO TALK. FIGHT.

I CAN DO BOTH!



WONDER WOMAN!

SHE'S GOT IT. SUPERGIRL'S ON THE CASE.



NO LIFE FORMS ABOARD EITHER VESSEL, YOUR MAJESTY.

CALL ME DIANA, PLEASE, MISS MARTIAN.

AND WOULD YOU LET OUR AIR FORCE KNOW...?



SUPERGIRL. FIRE AT WILL!

OH, ROGER THAT, LADIES.

GOT A PLAN, PRINCESS?

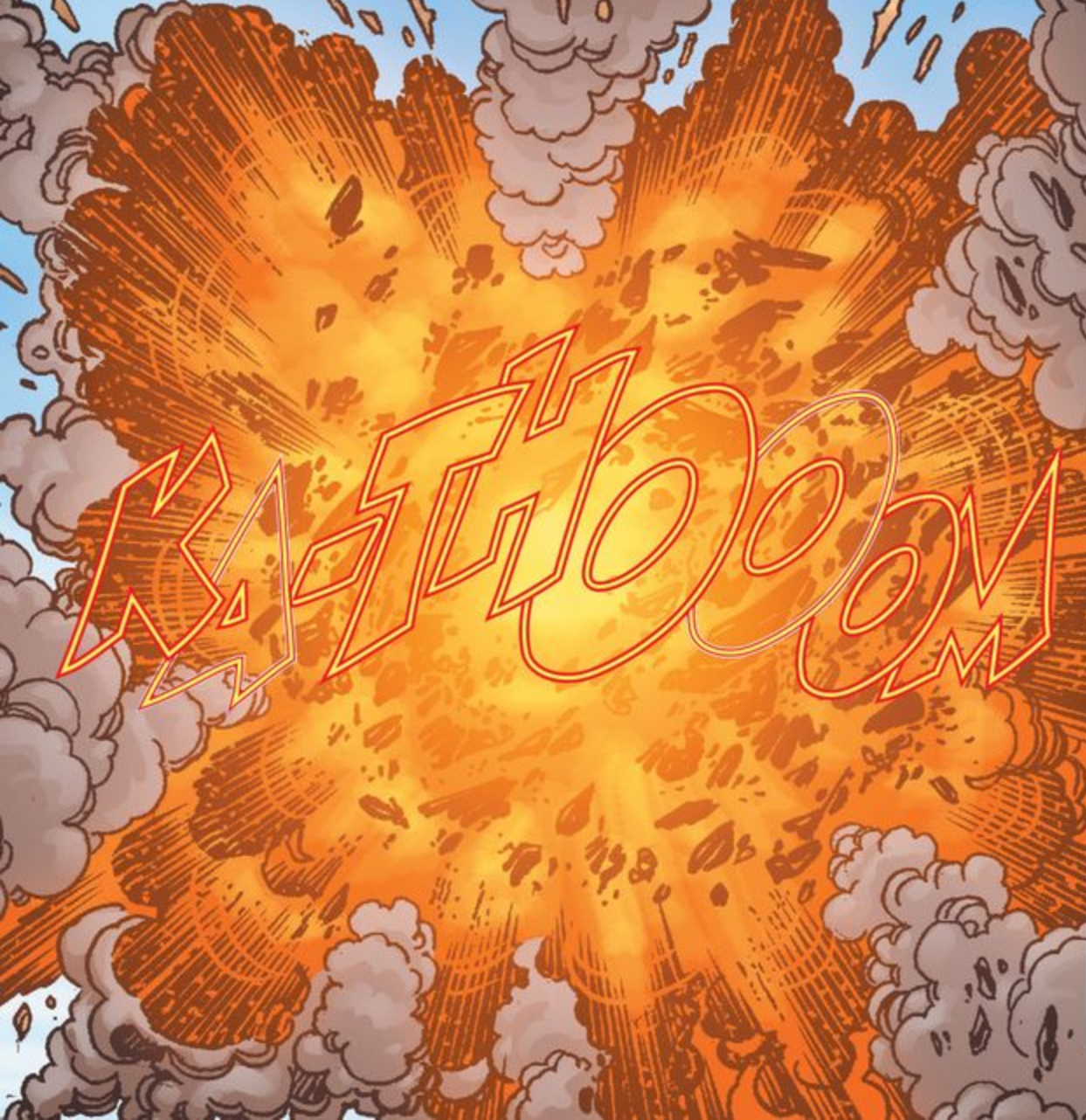
I DO.



I BELIEVE YOU CALL IT BILLIARDS.



HEADS UP!



NOW THAT'S BEAUTIFUL.



IN A WEIRD WAY, I MEAN!



THE WHITE HOUSE IS CLEAR, MY FRIENDS.



WELL DONE.



LISTEN, I'M... I'M KINDA NEW AT THIS WHOLE HERO THING, BUT I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT MEETING YOU...IT'S, WELL, IT'S AN HONOR, AND...

UM.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO I AM, DO YOU?

YOU DID WELL, BULLETEER. HOLD YOUR HEAD UP TODAY.

OHMYGOD OHMYGOD WE WERE TOTALLY A TEAM-UP FOR ABOUT THIRTY SECONDS THERE!



YOU GONNA ASK HER FOR AN AUTOGRAPH?

... I'M WORKING UP TO IT.



SIREN ROBOTS? NOT IVO'S MOST BRILLIANT PLAN.

THE PROFESSOR'S ALWAYS BEEN MORE BRILLIANT THAN CLEVER, MANHUNTER.



SO THAT'S HER, HUH? I COULD TAKE HER, I BET.

WHATEVER. SIGH!



LISTEN, WON... DIANA.

THOSE OF US WHO AREN'T UNDERAGE WERE GOING TO SEE IF WE COULD FIND A DECENT BAR...

AND, I THINK THE ESIDENT-PRAY WANTS TO THANK OU-YAY.



A TEMPTING OFFER INDEED, BUT I'M AFRAID I HAVE AN URGENT MATTER TO ATTEND TO.

THANK YOU ALL. YOU FOUGHT LIKE AMAZONS.



WHAT'S SHE GOT THAT SHE CAN SAY THE WORD AND WE ALL FOLLOW?

DON'T KNOW. BUT I WISH I HAD SOME.



BIG DEAL. SHE'S JUST A WOMAN.

NO, SHE ISN'T!



SHE'S WONDER WOMAN, CRANKYPANTS!



DIANA!



AM I TOO LATE?



NO, BUT HURRY.

THEY'RE JUST ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE HER!

...RUNNING
OVERTIME ALREADY,
SO I JUST WANT
TO SAY...

I'VE KNOWN
THIS YOUNG LADY
SINCE I WAS JUST A
GEOMETRY TEACHER AT
ADAMS JR. HIGH. I'M SO
TERRIBLY PROUD
OF HER.

CONGRATULATIONS,
GRADUATING SENIORS!

OUR CLASS
VALEDICTORIAN,
VANESSA
KAPATELIS!

SIT,
SIT!

THANK
YOU, PRINCIPAL
WESTLAKE.

TO MY
FAMILY, MY
FRIENDS, AND
THE FAMILY AND
FRIENDS OF ALL
THE STUDENTS
HERE TODAY...

...MAY I JUST SAY
THAT THESE GOWNS
ARE EXTREMELY
UNCOMFORTABLE?

IN MY TIME
HERE, I'VE MADE
AND LOST SOME
WONDERFUL FRIENDS.
MET AND LEARNED
FROM SOME
WONDERFUL
TEACHERS.

PURCHASED
AND WORE
SOME TRULY
HORRENDOUS
OUTFITS.

ATE AND
DIGESTED
SOME ROTTEN
CAFETERIA
FOOD.

"THROUGH
SOMETIMES
SEEMINGLY
INSURMOUNTABLE
DIFFICULTIES..."

"THROUGH PAIN
AND BURDENS WE
WEREN'T SURE WE
COULD CARRY..."

AND I'M
STILL HERE.

WE'RE ALL
OF US STILL
HERE.

...WE'RE
STILL HERE.

A FRIEND
OF MINE PUT IT
THIS WAY...

KEEP
FAITH.

TRUST
TO LOVE.

FIGHT WITH
HONOR.

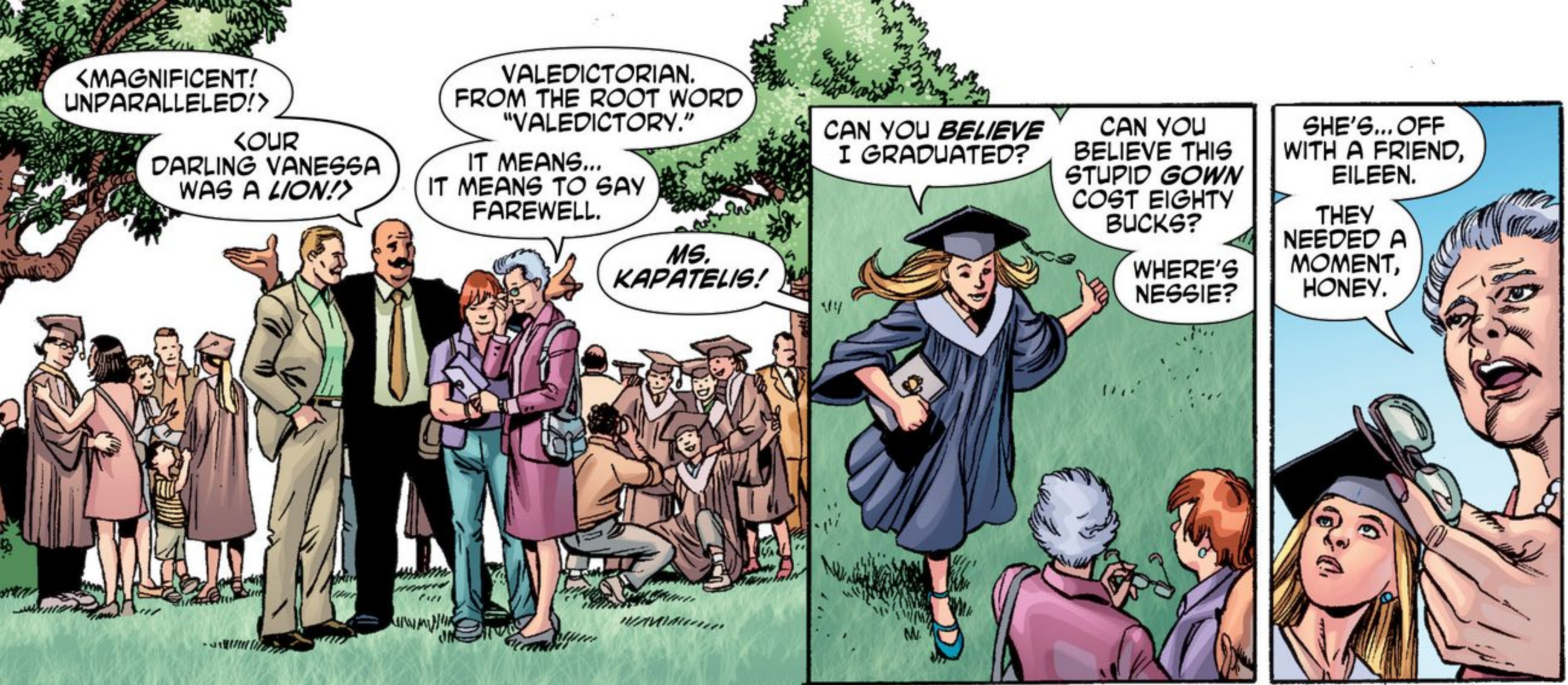
BUT
FIGHT TO
WIN.

THE FUTURE
IS SCARY.

BUT I
SAY? BRING
IT ON.

WE CAN
TAKE IT.

AND MAY
THE FREAKIN'
GLORY OF
FREAKIN' GAEA
BE WITH
YOU!



<MAGNIFICENT!
UNPARALLELED!>

<OUR
DARLING VANESSA
WAS A LION!>

VALEDICTORIAN.
FROM THE ROOT WORD
"VALEDICTORY."

IT MEANS...
IT MEANS TO SAY
FAREWELL.

MS.
KAPATELIS!

CAN YOU *BELIEVE*
I GRADUATED?

CAN YOU
BELIEVE THIS
STUPID GOWN
COST EIGHTY
BUCKS?

WHERE'S
NESSIE?

SHE'S... OFF
WITH A FRIEND,
EILEEN.

THEY
NEEDED A
MOMENT,
HONEY.



YOU KNOW, WHEN MOM
FIRST BROUGHT YOU HOME*,
I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE
MOST BEAUTIFUL THING
I'D EVER SEEN.

REALLY?
I THOUGHT
THE SAME THING
ABOUT YOU,
VANESSA. I
STILL DO.

*IN WONDER WOMAN #3
(1986)!--B.C.



I HATED
YOU A
LITTLE BIT,
TOO. I'M
SORRY.

I BROUGHT SO MUCH
CHAOS INTO YOUR LIFE.
IT'S...
UNDERSTANDABLE. BUT
I'M SO VERY PROUD
RIGHT NOW.



I DID GOOD, DIDN'T
I? DESPITE EVERYTHING
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.

PERHAPS
BECAUSE OF
EVERYTHING
YOU'VE BEEN
THROUGH.



YOU WENT AWAY,
DIANA. THAT HURT.
I FELT...

...ABANDONED.
I TEND TO WORK
BEST IN A CRISIS.
AND THERE'S
ALWAYS A
CRISIS.

I'M SORRY
IF I HAVEN'T
BEEN A GOOD
FRIEND.



STOP. I WANT
YOU TO STOP
IT.



I KNOW
THE WORLD
NEEDS YOU,
TOO.



IT'S
OKAY. I
CAN FACE THE
WORLD NOW.
YOU *TAUGHT*
ME THAT.



VANESSA,
THE SEEDS
GROW, AND
THE LEAVES
FALL.

BUT
I WILL
NEVER BE
AWAY FROM
YOU.

BECAUSE
CIRCUMSTANCES
CHANGE, BUT
THE LOVE
ENDURES.

Valedictorian



AND YOU
TAUGHT ME
THAT.

writer: GAIL SIMONE
penciller & inspiration: GEORGE PÉREZ
inker: SCOTT KOBLISH colorist: HI-FI
letterer: TRAVIS LANHAM
a.s.s.o.c. editor: SEAN RYAN
editor: BRIAN CUNNINGHAM
WONDER WOMAN created by
WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

NEW YORK CITY.
A WHILE BACK.

WHEN I
GIVE THE WORD,
HIT HIM WITH ALL
YOUR MIGHT.

ARE YOU
SURE? THAT'S
A LOT OF
MIGHT.

POSITIVE.

Fuzzy Logic

AMANDA CONNER WRITER & ARTIST
PAUL MOUNTS COLORIST
JOHN J. HILL LETTERER
SEAN RYAN ASSOC. EDITOR
BRIAN CUNNINGHAM EDITOR
WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY
WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

GREETINGS,
FEMALES. I--

NOW.

BOOM!



OH...
ICK... THAT
WAS JUST...
FOUL!

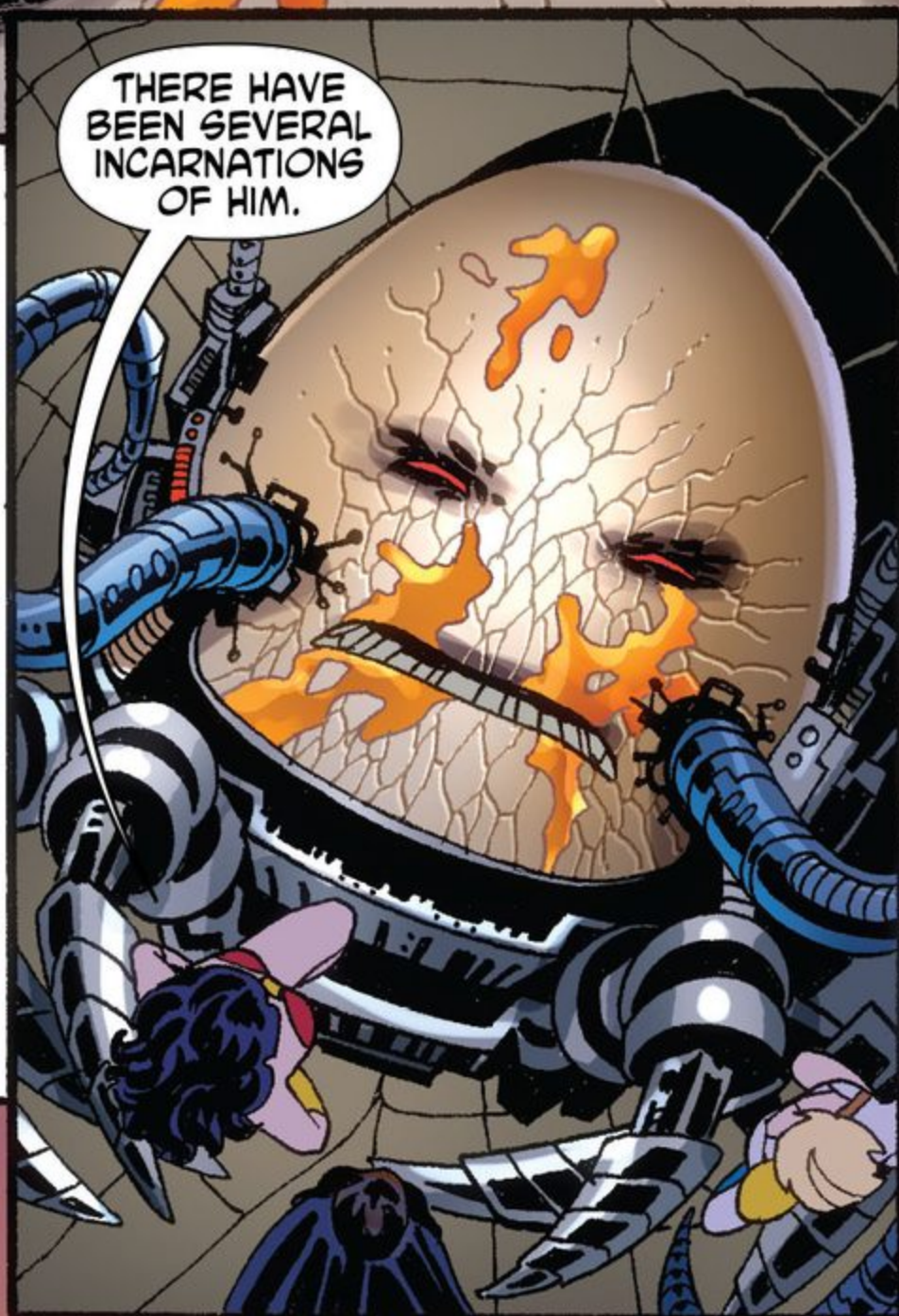
AGREED.
ENDING
THIS BATTLE WAS A
SOMEWHAT... UNPLEASANT
EXERCISE.

WHO
IS THAT
GUY?



HE IS CALLED **CHANG TSU**. I'VE ALSO HEARD
PEOPLE REFER TO
HIM AS **EGG FU**.

REALLY?
THAT'S JUST
EMBARRASSING.

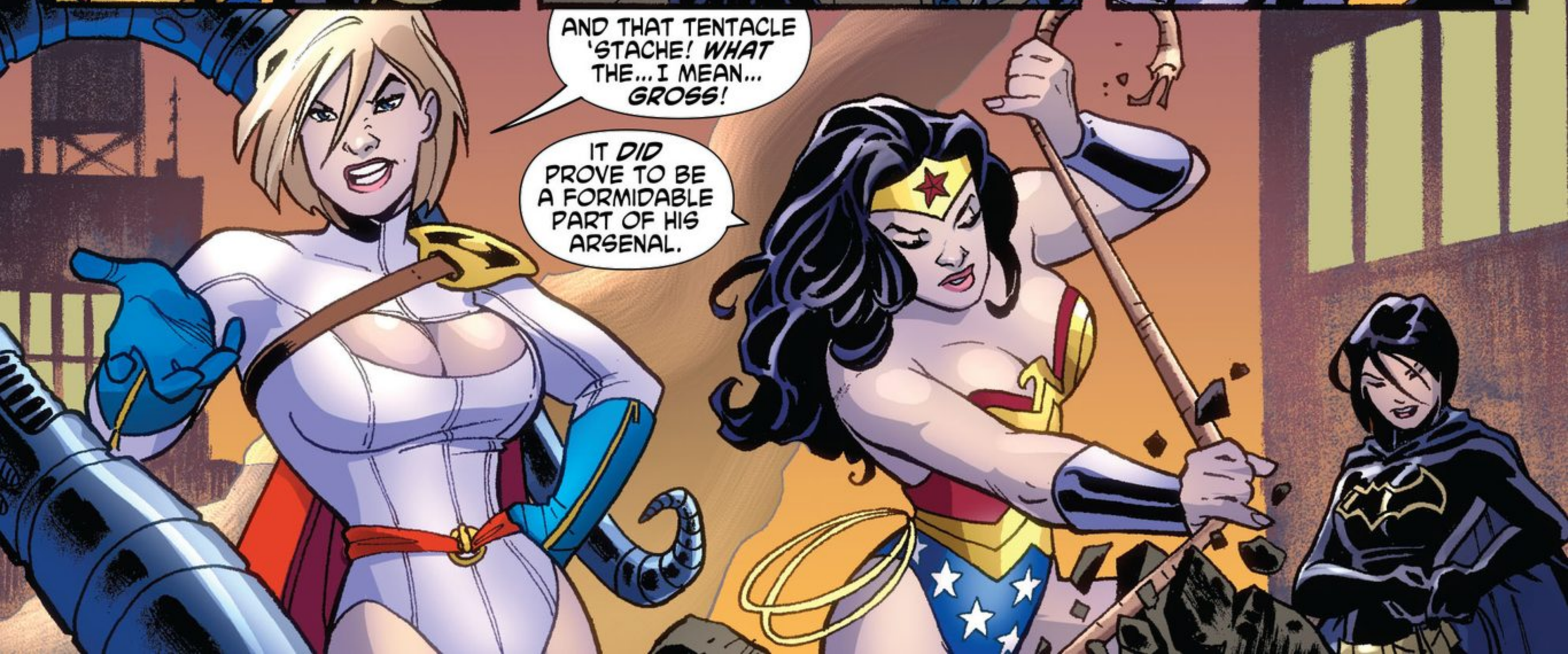


THERE HAVE
BEEN SEVERAL
INCARNATIONS
OF HIM.



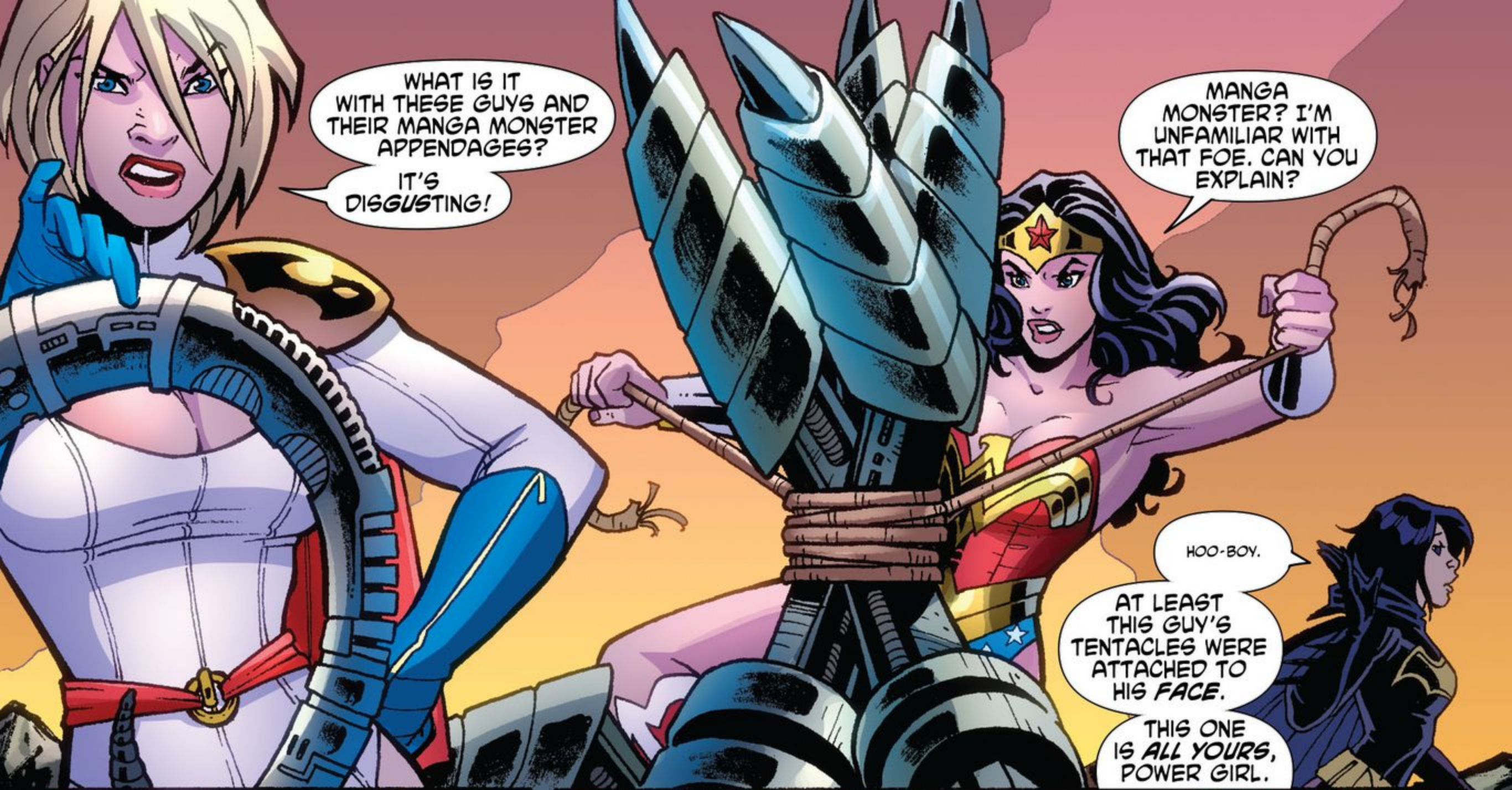
WHAT,
LIKE A
DOZEN?

THANK
THE GODS,
NO. NOT *THAT*
MANY.



AND THAT TENTACLE
'STACHE! WHAT
THE... I MEAN...
GROSS!

IT *DID*
PROVE TO BE
A FORMIDABLE
PART OF HIS
ARSENAL.



WHAT IS IT
WITH THESE GUYS AND
THEIR MANGA MONSTER
APPENDAGES?
IT'S
DISGUSTING!

MANGA
MONSTER? I'M
UNFAMILIAR WITH
THAT FOE. CAN YOU
EXPLAIN?

HOO-BOY.
AT LEAST
THIS GUY'S
TENTACLES WERE
ATTACHED TO
HIS FACE.
THIS ONE
IS ALL YOURS,
POWER GIRL.



OH,
GOD.
UM... I'LL
EXPLAIN
LATER.

FINE.



DIANA, KAL MENTIONED
SOME OF YOUR OTHER
AMAZING ABILITIES...
AND... WELL...

I WAS
HOPING YOU COULD
HELP ME OUT
WITH... UM...

YES?



I HAVE
A PROBLEM
THAT I CAN'T
JUST PUNCH
MY WAY OUT
OF.



YOU'LL FIND
MOST DILEMMAS
ARE OF THAT
NATURE.

I SEE, YES.
I KNOW YOU ARE
DISTRESSED. I WILL
TRY TO MAKE
IT CLEAR.

YOU MUST
UNDERSTAND...
HE DOES NOT
BELONG TO YOU.
YOU BELONG
TO HIM.

SAY
WHAT?

DO
NOT TAKE IT
PERSONALLY. IT
IS SIMPLY THE
WAY OF THEIR
KIND.

IT MAY
PLEASE YOU
TO KNOW THAT YOU
ARE HIS FAVORITE...
POSSESSION... SO
TO SPEAK.

POSSESSION?

SO,
WHAT AM I,
LIKE, A REALLY
LARGE *SLAVE*?

NO,
NOTHING SO
COMPLICATED.
THERE IS SIMPLY
"HIS" AND "NOT
HIS."

AND BEING
THAT YOU ARE
HIS MOST PRIZED,
YOUR LONG ABSENCES
CAUSE HIM GREAT
AGITATION.

OH, NO.
SEPARATION
ANXIETY.

YES. HIS
FAVORITE THING IS YOUR
ATTENTION. IT IS EVEN MORE
IMPORTANT THAN WHAT HE CALLS
"HAPPY EATING TRAPPED BY
SHINY ROUND THING THAT
SHE GETS FREE."

UGH... HOW
AM I GONNA
WORK THIS
OUT?

I MEAN...
I'D LOVE
TO BE ABLE TO
MANAGE MY NEW
COMPANY...

...AND BABYSIT
MY NEW
EMPLOYEES...

...AND
CORRAL THE
J.S.A. ALL-
STARS...

...AND SAVE THE
WORLD IN NO
TIME FLAT...

...ALL WHILE
EXPEDITIOUSLY
SHOVING
MAGOG'S BIG
HORNS RIGHT
UP HIS--

ROWR?



I UNDERSTAND. IT ALSO MIGHT HELP TO KNOW THAT HIS TERRITORY IS VERY IMPORTANT.

THIS PLACE, HE DOESN'T FEEL AS IF IT BELONGS TO HIM.

THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE HERE.

AND SO MANY DISCOMFORTING SCENTS... ALL CHEMICAL AND ARTIFICIAL SMELLS.

HE CRAVES HIS OWN TERRITORY. AND A ROUTINE.

AND MORE NATURAL... SCENTS.

PERHAPS THAT'S WHY HE CREATES SO MANY... *SNF*... OF HIS OWN.

WELL, LITTLE MAN, I GUESS IT'S TIME TO STOP LIVING AT THE OFFICE AND GET US A REAL APARTMENT.

WISE. BUT DON'T FORGET, ABOVE ALL ELSE, HE WANTS MORE YOU.

THANK YOU SO MUCH. I HOPE HE CAN FORGIVE ME.

HE WILL.

I HOPE HE STILL LOVES ME.

HE DOES.

NOW, PLEASE TELL ME OF THAT FOE WITH THE TENTACLED APPENDAGES.

THE ONE YOU CALLED "MANGA MONSTER."

OH BOY.

END

FIREPOWER

NATIONAL AIRPORT.
WASHINGTON, DC.

PULL YOUR
PEOPLE BACK, CHIEF.
THE TANK'S LEAKING
FUEL. IT'S GOING
TO BLOW!

THE
DOOR WAS
STUCK! WE WERE
TRAPPED IN THE
COCKPIT!

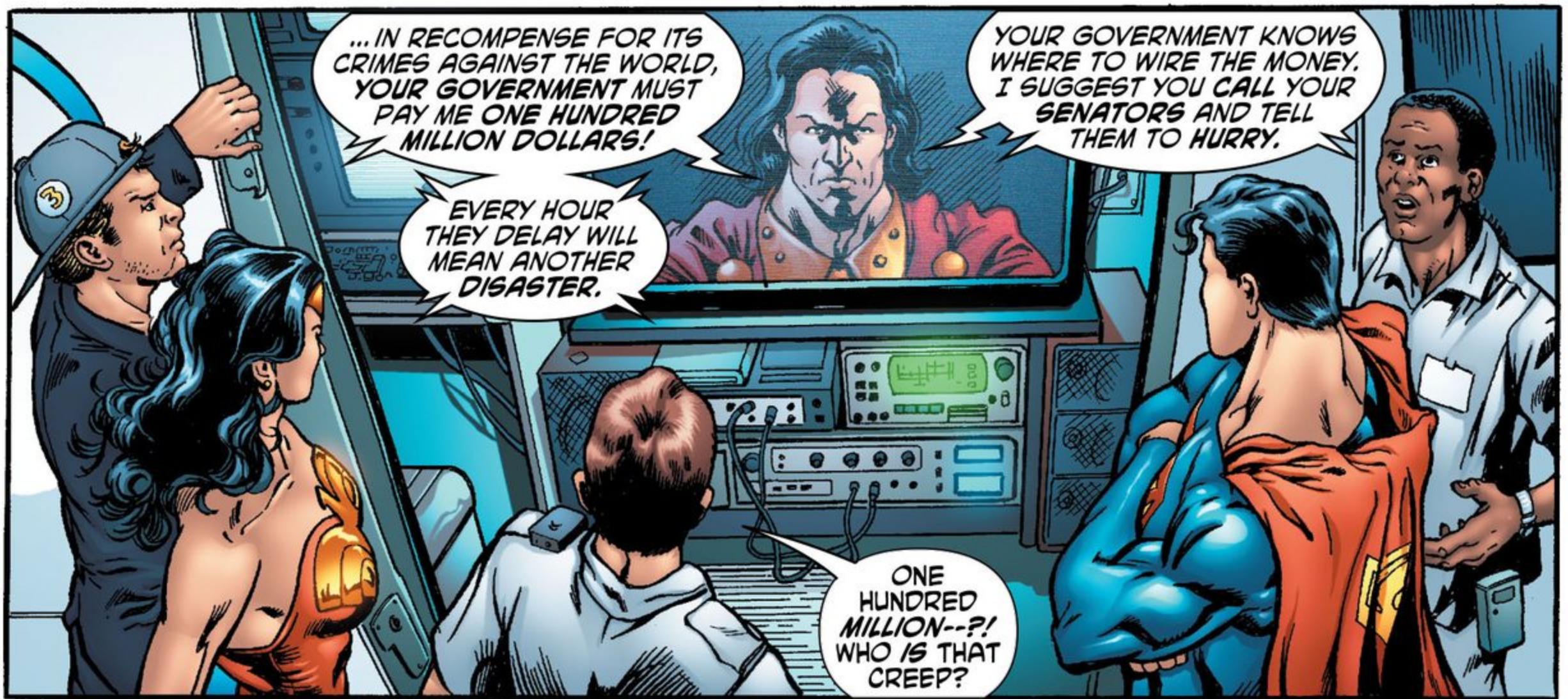
WONDER
WOMAN, IF
YOU HADN'T
REACHED
US--

YOU HEARD
SUPERMAN!
LET'S GO,
MEN! ON THE
DOUBLE!

BAWHOOO

--WE'D BE
DEAD!

LOUISE SIMONSON writer EDUARDO PANSICA penciller BOB WIACEK inker
PETE PANTAZIS colorist TRAVIS LANHAM letterer SEAN RYAN assoc. editor BRIAN CUNNINGHAM editor
WONDER WOMAN created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER



THE BROADCAST CAME FROM THE WASHINGTON AREA. FOR THE MOMENT, AEGEUS IS OPERATING LOCALLY.

AT LEAST THAT NARROWS THE OPTIONS. OUR HOUR'S ALMOST UP--

THERE!

...3...2...1. AND NOT A CENT IN MY ACCOUNT. UNBELIEVERS!

WELL, WASHINGTON, I DID WARN YOU!

THE EXCELA HIGH SPEED TRAIN'S COMING! THERE'S NO WAY IT CAN STOP--!

AH, STILL AS BRIGHT AS YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL!

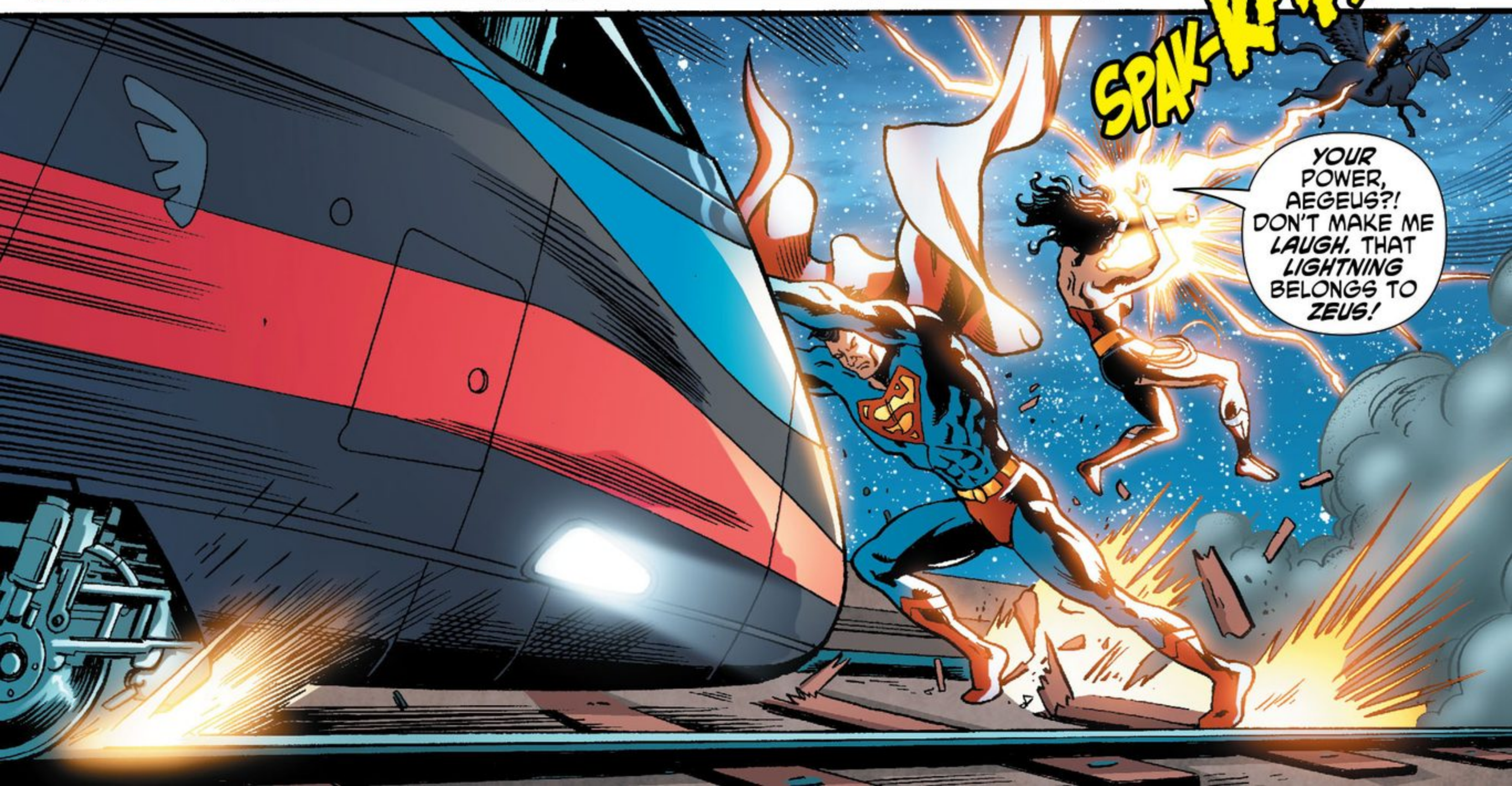
THOSE BOLTS ARE MAGIC...

AKK--!

CRACK-
KTHOOMB

SHRAK-

KTHOOMB





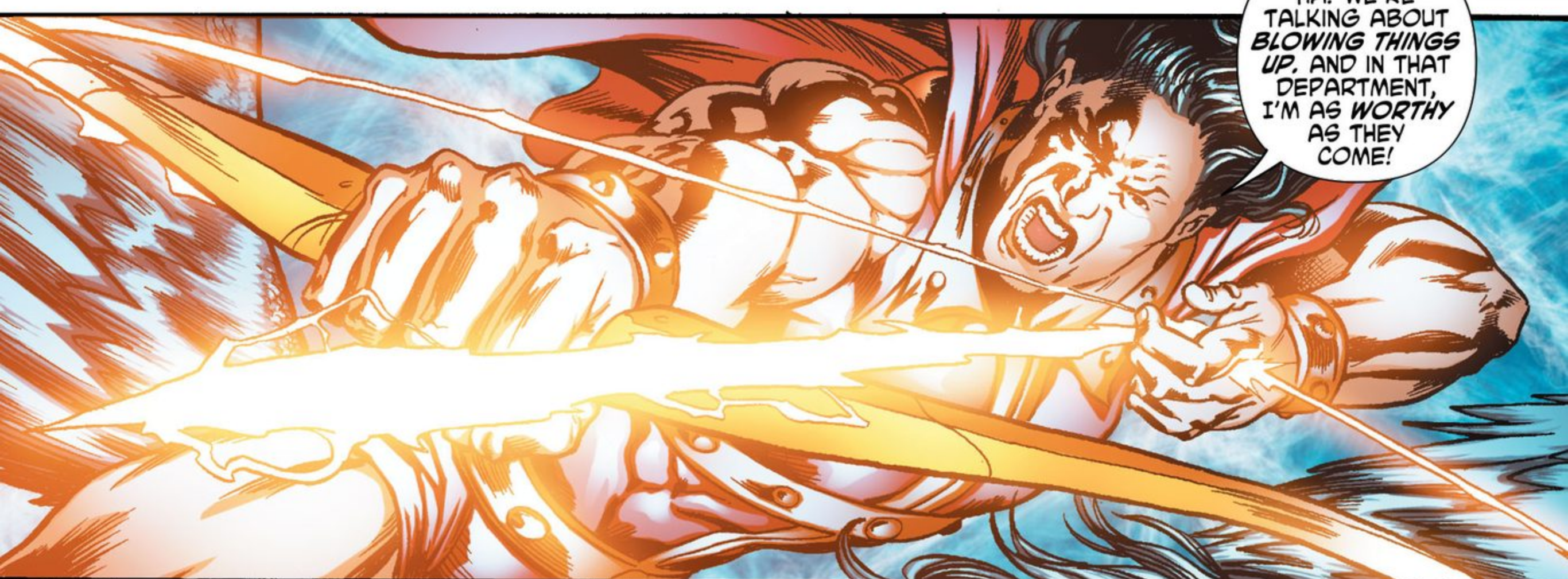
FINDERS
KEEPERS, LOSERS
WEEPERS,
PRINCESS!

SPAK-
KANING

A FUTILE
GESTURE. NOT
EVEN YOUR *MAGIC
BRACELETS* CAN
DEFLECT MY BOLTS
FOREVER!

YOU'RE A
WEAKLING, AGEUS,
AND A THIEF--NOT WORTHY
OF THE GODLY MISSILES
THAT YOU WIELD!

WORTHY?
HA! WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT
BLOWING THINGS
UP. AND IN THAT
DEPARTMENT,
I'M AS WORTHY
AS THEY
COME!



NO.

SPAK



FROM
WHERE I
STAND...

SPANGG



KZPANGK

... YOU'RE
JUST ONE MORE
MORTAL...



...WITH
DELUSIONS OF
GRANDEUR...

NICE TRY,
PRINCESS! BUT
I ALSO HAVE
THE KNIFE OF
VULCAN!

THERE'S
NOTHING IT
CAN'T CUT--
INCLUDING
YOUR FAMOUS
GOLDEN
LASSO.

ONE
SLICE... AND
I TELEPORT
AWAY.



STOPPED--
FINALLY!



AND THE
BATTLE'S NOT
QUITE OVER.
GOOD.



IN ANOTHER HOUR, I'LL DESTROY ANOTHER TARGET. YOU CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE--



YOU'RE SURE OF THAT? WE'RE VERY QUICK.

OH NO.



WHOA!

THANKS!

WHAKT



HEY, I PULLED MY PUNCH.

MOSTLY.

HE'LL STILL BE ABLE TO TAKE THE WITNESS STAND.

MINUS SEVERAL TEETH.

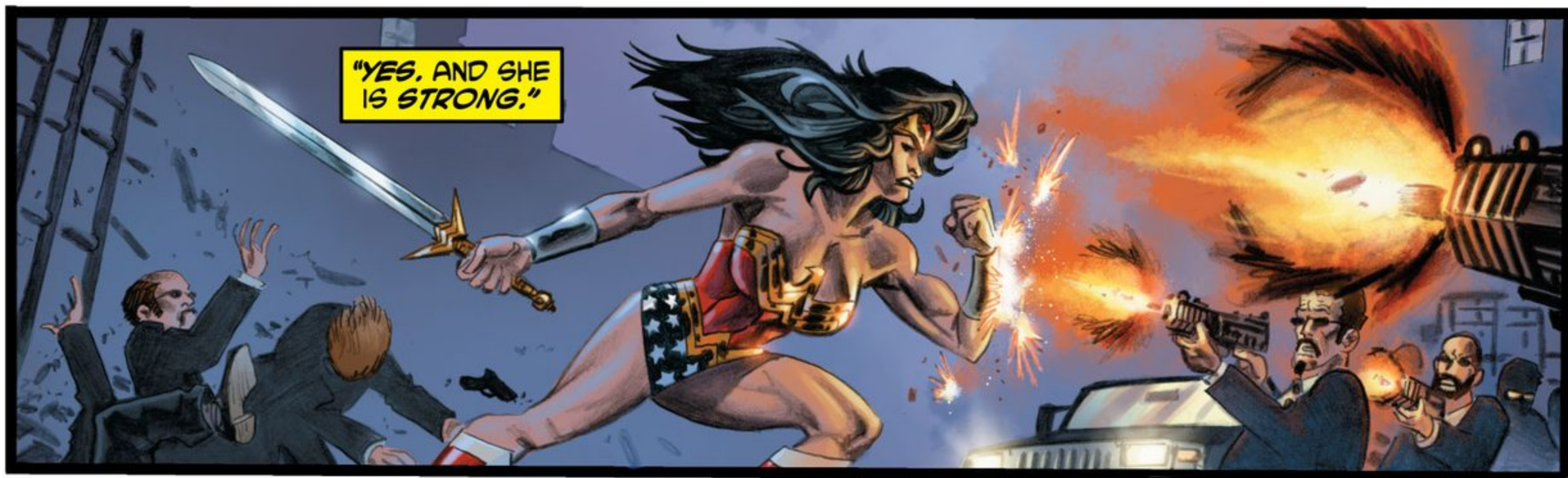
WHY DIDN'T YOU HIT HIM? I KNOW YOU WANTED TO.

IT'S THE GENTLEMAN IN ME! THIS WAS DEFINITELY A TIME FOR "LADIES FIRST."

END

"SHE IS SENSATIONAL."





"YES. AND SHE IS STRONG."



"STRONGER THAN HERCULES?"



"STRONGER AND FIERCER."



"THOUGH FAR MORE RIGHTEOUS."

"IS THAT *WHY* SHE LEFT THE ISLAND? TO SPREAD MORE RIGHTEOUSNESS?"

"YES. THE WORLD IS UNBALANCED."

"BUT SHE HAS REASONS... MORE HUMAN THAN THAT."

"HUMAN? THE DAUGHTER OF HIPPOLYTA?"

"SHE IS MORE HUMAN THAN MOST KNOW."



"AS A CHILD SHE STOOD ON THE BEACHES OF THEMYSKIRA GAZING OUT OVER THE OCEAN WITH *UNQUENCHABLE CURIOSITY*...WONDERING WHAT WAS REALLY BEYOND THE HORIZON.



"WONDERING IF THE STORIES SHE HAD HEARD WERE *TRUE*."



"WONDERING..."



"...IS THE OUTSIDE WORLD *CORRUPT*?"

"AND WHAT DID SHE DISCOVER?"

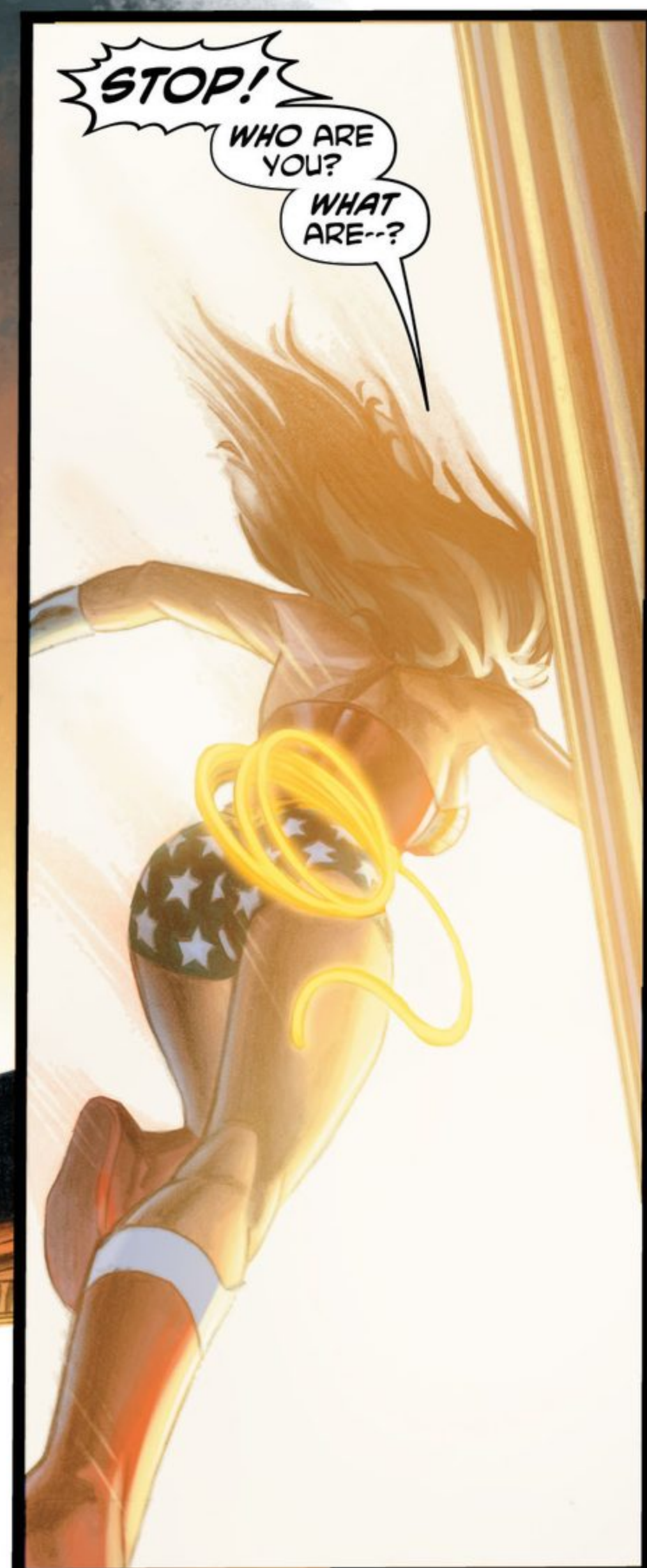
"DIANA DISCOVERED THAT THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAS THE CAPACITY FOR BOTH EVIL AND GOOD."

"AND THAT WORLD NEEDS BALANCE."

"IT NEEDS TO LEARN FROM WONDER WOMAN."

HELP!





"DIANA IS FAR
TOO UNDERVALUED
BY THIS WORLD.
THIS MUST CHANGE.

"LET THE ODYSSEY
OF WONDER WOMAN
BEGIN."



the Sensational **Wonder Woman**

Created by
William Moulton Marston

Geoff Johns
writer

Scott Kolins
artist

Michael Atiyeh Colorist
Nick J. Napolitano Letterer
Sean Ryan Assoc. Editor
Brian Cunningham Editor

Wonder Woman

Can Save the World

By Lynda Carter



"Did you bring your Lasso of Truth?" people ask me, and I have to laugh. But it's true—Wonder Woman accessorizes. She is, after all, a very savvy woman. But as we all know, form follows function. Everything she wears has a purpose: Her golden bracelets deflect bullets, her Venus Girdle endows her with superhuman strength, her tiara boomerangs and her lasso holds others to the truth that she, herself, lives by. And that's just what we can see. Wonder Woman's intellect is her real power. She's honest and disarming, and she kicks butt.

I was like every other little girl who loved to read Wonder Woman comics. At the time, there weren't many strong female role models. There was *Archie's* Betty and Veronica, and then there was Wonder Woman. And they actually offered to pay me to play her on television. Imagine that! I would have done it for free. I'd been in Hollywood studying acting and was a fresh-faced innocent in that town. I was just 24, and putting on that costume—the American flag high-cut bathing suit—was the thrill of a lifetime.

That said, her costume and accessories don't define the essence of Wonder Woman. She is the "Secret Self" inside every woman—the beautiful, unafraid, tenacious and powerful woman we know resides within us. She is the antithesis of "victim." She is the single mother working multiple jobs, the unsung heroine, the supportive sister, the devoted daughter, the loving wife. She is the archetype of the Liberated Feminine, and *that* part of us is not confined by any societal role.

Wonder Woman stood apart from every woman of her time. She was always looking for—yearning for—a connection to others in this new world. To whom could she turn? Not only was she separated from her family and her roots, but she also had her alias to protect. It's this need to connect that, in my mind, has always made her a human, likeable and complex character.

I never tried to dumb her down or treat her as a two-dimensional comic book character; I had too much respect for her to do that. I played her for

real. She had two faces she showed the world, but she's one person. Diana Prince *is* Wonder Woman. They're different aspects of the same individual.

In truth, I never played "Wonder Woman"—I played Princess Diana (Diana, a.k.a. Artemis, goddess of the hunt and of wild things). She came from an island of women where she wasn't necessarily the prettiest or the strongest. She wasn't overly impressed with herself. She was intrigued by Steve Trevor and fought for the chance to be the one to take him home. When she found herself in this other world, the America of the 1940s, her heroic reactions flowed naturally from her values and her powers.

While I am forever identified with the role, Wonder Woman belongs to us all. She lives inside us. She's the symbol of the extraordinary possibilities that inhabit us, hidden though they may be—that, I think, is the important gift Wonder Woman offers women. Perhaps our real challenge in the 21st century is to strive to reach our potential while embracing her values. Wonder Woman is fearless. She sees the good in everyone, convinced they are capable of change, compassion and generosity. She's kindhearted and hopeful, and she has a great sense of humor. These are just some of the important gifts the Adaptable Empowered Feminine has to offer. In an age when femininity is casting off restraints around the world, Wonder Woman remains an important archetype.

I loved Wonder Woman as a kid, I loved Wonder Woman when I played the role, and I love Wonder Woman to this day. She is the goddess within us all.

If Einstein is right, and imagination is more important than knowledge, then maybe what we need is to "wonder"...to open our minds and our hearts, to believe in what we cannot see.

Who knows? Maybe Wonder Woman *can* save the world.

Lynda Carter



ART BY ADAM HUGHES

PENCILLED BY NICOLA SCOTT
COLORED BY JASON WRIGHT





PENCILLED BY IVAN REIS
INKED BY OCLAIR ALBERT
COLORED BY ROD REIS

IVAN
REIS
2010
ROD
REIS



MARCH
6/10

ART BY GUILLEM MARCH



© GREG HORN

ART BY GREG HORN



PENCILLED AND INKED BY PHIL JIMENEZ
COLORED BY HI-FI

• WITH THANKS TO ALL ESR DESSERT, FOR ALL MY PHX WUN THANKS! PHIL JIMENEZ 4/2010

PENCILLED AND INKED BY FRANCIS MANAPUL
COLORED BY BRIAN BUCELLATO



FM
2001



Jack — 72

ART BY JOCK

PENCILLED BY SHANE DAVIS
INKED BY JAIME MENDOZA
COLORED BY NEI RUFFINO

